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PART XVIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

October 1877.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Acting Chargé d'Affaires White	92	Sept. 24, 1877	Reception of the Turkish emissary at Tangier and his departure	1
2	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	30,	Intended raid by a Hungarian stopped by Government. (See his despatch No. 743) ..	1
3	Porte to Musurus Pasha	..	19,	Turkish orders respecting the observance of the Geneva Convention, and counter complaints against the Russians	1
4	„ „	Telegraphic	29,	Greek preparations continue. A band has crossed the Epirus frontier	2
5	Consul-General White.	Telegraphic	Oct. 1,	Mobilization of Servian forces seems to have been ordered secretly	2
6	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	1,	The Hungarian free corps under General Klapka to invade Roumania must have been considerable	3
7	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	1,	Neutralization of the Sulina channel is the sole condition on which Russia would agree to the removal of the obstruction	3
8	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	2,	General Klapka denies any knowledge of the intended foray into Roumania	3
9	Mr. Layard . ..	421 Telegraphic	2,	The Geshoffs will be sent to Constantinople in a few days. From Vice-Consul Calvert ..	3
10	Acting-Consul Freeman	63 Consular	Sept. 17,	Two road reports from Vice-Consul Cooper ..	3
11	„ „	87	17,	Active endeavours of the Mutessarif of Banjaluka to put down brigandage	8
12	„ „	88	20,	Captain Milinkovic's tour in Bosnia. Despatch from Vice-Consul Cooper	8
13	„ „	89	21,	The town of Bilek occupied by Montenegrins. No excesses perpetrated	9
14	Consul Kirby Green .	106	24,	Humane behaviour of Montenegrins at Nichsich	10
15	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	Oct. 2,	Sulina channel. Respecting Russian reply to Count Andrassy's note. The Porte would probably refuse	10
16	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	2,	Sulina channel. Porte had better accept the neutralization than have it as it now is ..	11
17	Mr. Layard . ..	423 Telegraphic	3,	Russian repulse at Kizil Kale. Confirmed by Sir A. Kemball	11
18	„ „ . ..	424 Telegraphic	2,	Suleiman Pasha replaces Mehemet Ali; and Raouf takes the former's place	11
19	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	2,	Colonel Ali Haidar Bey, taken prisoner at Nicopolis, is now at Orel	11
20	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	3,	Informs him of above	11
21	Mr. Taylour Thomson	134	Sept. 5,	Turkish protection to Persian Shekah Kurds and their leader Ahmed Agha. Memorandum by Persian Foreign Minister complaining of ..	12
22	„ „ ..	135	5,	Outrages by Shekah Kurds near Oroomiah. Correspondence with Persian Foreign Minister	13
23	Consul Abbott ..	16	8,	Nestorian Christians. Kurdish outrages. Despatches respecting. Instructions sent to repress	16
24	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	59	14,	Caucasian emigrants at Samsoon. Letter from Consular Agent there	20
25	„ „ ..	60	15,	Sick Circassian emigrants at Trebizond. Despatch to Constantinople	21
26	„ „ ..	62	21,	Caucasian emigrants. Despatch to Constantinople	22
27	„ „ ..	63	22,	Caucasian emigrants. Ibrahim Pasha and the Committee do not mean them to return to Russia	23
28	Consul Blunt ..	43	17,	Bulgarian executions. Despatch to Constantinople	24
29	„ „ . .	45	22,	The Geshoffs. Not removed to Constantinople. Despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert. Bulgarian executions still continue	28
30	„ „ ..	46	22,	Massacre of Bulgarians at Oktchilar. A statement by Sir R. Beauchamp	30

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
31	Consul Sandwith ..	63	Sept. 21, 1877	Memorandum addressed by Christians at meeting in Apokorona to the foreign Consuls in Canea	31
32	Colonel Wellesley ..	18 Most Conf.	23,	Conversation with Prince Gortchakow and Baron Jomini. General Ignatiew's movements and conversation with him. Prince Ghika on the Roumanian army	34
33	Mr. Layard . ..	1106 Confidential	22,	Fresh assurances respecting Servia. Conversation with M. Christich	36
34	„ „	1110	24,	Entrance to the Gulf of Arta. Italy would support Greece in question of freedom of. Copy of instructions by Russian Government to General Ignatiew ten years ago on this question	37
35	„ „	1114 Confidential	24,	Letter from Dr. Washburne, with his views on the state of affairs in Turkey	39
36	„ „	1115	24,	Intentions of the Porte as to doing away with, or to restricting, the Capitulations ..	40
37	„ „	1116	24,	The action near Bezin Verboka. Two telegrams from Colonel Lennox	41
38	„ „	1117	24,	No truth as to Austria being ready to mediate .	42
39	„ „	1119	25,	Respecting the number of prisoners made by Turks, it is more than probable that few lives are spared on the field	42
40	„ „	1120	24,	A Greek band, under one Dimitrion, has left Euboea for Macedonia. Porte has asked for explanations, and has taken measures of precaution	43
41	„ „	1121 Secret	24,	Telegram from Colonel Lennox respecting Mehemet Ali Pasha and Suleiman Pasha ..	44
42	„ „	1124	25,	State of affairs at Rustchuk and refugees there. Despatch from Consul Reade	45
43	„ „	1130	26,	Account of the country between Plevna and Tatar-Bazardjik. Number of fugitives. Great distress	46
44	„ „	1131	26,	Despatch from Acting Consul Barker at Salonica, reporting arrival of Tartar refugees from Toultcha, and of irregular Albanian troops to protect frontier	47
45	„ „	1132	26,	Greek complaints of the Porte settling Circassian families in Macedonia	47
46	„ „	1133	26,	Memorandum of note from Server Pasha to M. Condouriotis, respecting a Turkish subject protected by Greek Consul in Crete. (See his telegram No. 415)	48
47	Porte to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	Oct. 2,	Outrages by Cossacks and Bulgarians at Izor, in the district of Orkhanié	49
48	Mr. Adams ..	804	3,	Circular to Diplomatic Agents of Roumania abroad, respecting Turkish disregard of the Geneva Convention	49
49	Consul-General White	Telegraphic	3,	Mobilization only partial in Servia	50
50	Mr. Wyndham ..	237 Confidential	Sept. 23,	Respecting M. Tricoupi's complaint of the maladministration of Thessaly. (See his No. 235)	51
51	„ „ ..	239	26,	Dimitrion's band. Greek steamer in pursuit of.	51
52	„ „ ..	240 Confidential	26,	Control of Greek Government over the Committees. Satisfaction of Server Pasha at assurance given	51
53	„ „ ..	241 Very Conf.	26,	Major Zimbrakaki, President of an insurrectionary Committee. Turkish Minister calls for his resignation of commission in Greek army	52
54	„ „ ..	242	26,	The King's yacht has returned from Trieste with arms	52
55	Mr. Layard . ..	1140	27,	Disturbances in Cyprus. Reply of the Governor to Consul Watkins	52
56	„ „	1141 Confidential	27,	Servia. M. Christich will assure Server Pasha that the Porte has no grounds for alarm ..	53
57	„ „	1142	28,	Respecting Austrian intervention for peace. Extract from the "Vakit"	53
58	Lord A. Loftus ..	531	30,	Russian acts of cruelty. See Foreign Office, No. 329. Has represented to M. de Giers, and left memorandum left with him ..	54
59	Mr. Layard . ..	426 Telegraphic	Oct. 4,	Success gained by Moukhtar Pasha . ..	57
60	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	5,	Russian official report from Caucasian army ..	57
61	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	5,	Mehemet Ali's removal from command. What is the cause of?	58

No.	Name	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
62	To Mr. Layard ..	576	Oct. 5, 1877	Mingrelians. Approve decision in his No. 1085. Not to act at present on Foreign Office No. 479	58
63	„ „ ..	577	5,	Respecting the three Abazian women. Approves proceedings as reported in his No. 1102 ..	58
64	„ „ ..	578	5,	Wish of Bosnian refugees to return home from Austrian territory. Approves language and proceedings as reported in his No. 1090 ..	58
65	To Sir A. Paget ..	328 Confidential	5,	Conversation with Signor Crispi, President of Italian Chamber of Deputies, on policy of Italy as regards Austria	59
66	Porte to Musurus Pasha	..	Sept. 26,	Prohibition to enter and leave Straits of Prevesa at night. Porte's answer. Complaints of Greek Government	59
67	Mr. Wyndham ..	245	28,	Greece intends *de facto* to remain at peace, but cannot give formal engagements ..	61
68	„ „ ..	246	28,	Bands under Demetrion and Scoltzoyanni. Greek Government will take severe steps against frontier authorities	61
69	„ „ ..	247 Confidential	28,	The French Minister at Athens has counselled Greek Government to follow a pacific policy .	61
70	Mr. Layard . ..	427 Telegraphic	Oct. 5,	Russians have taken Great Yaghni Tepe. From Kemball	61
71	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	7,	Sulina. Neutralization. Russia accepts proposal, if the Porte does	62
72	„ „ ..	755	Sept. 21,	Count Andrassy much pleased with interview with Prince Bismarck	62
73	„ „ ..	757	22,	South Railway Company to lengthen sidings at stations of Fiume St. Peter's Railway, for long military trains	62
74	„ „ ..	762 Confidential	23,	Count Andrassy's interview with Prince Bismarck. Conversation with former respecting	62
75	„ „ ..	767	30,	Hungarian band referred to in his No. 743. Intentions of frustrated by Hungarian Government	63
76	„ „ ..	771	Oct. 1,	Arms belonging to above-mentioned band seized daily at stations in Austria and Hungary	63
77	„ „ ..	779 Very Conf.	4,	Understanding apparently come to between Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy, to let the war take its course at present . ..	64
78	„ „ ..	780	4,	Baron Orczy confident that Russia could not send troops into Servia . ..	64
79	„ „ ..	781	4,	Prince Nicholas does not intend to go beyond Banjani this campaign	65
80	Consul St. John ..	11	Sept. 24,	Passage of ammunition for Montenegro through Austrian territory. Extract from the "Avvenire"	65
81	Acting Consul Barker .	57	26,	Excesses by Albanian irregulars in Christian villages on their road to frontiers of Greece. Martial law at Yanina and Epirus ..	66
82	Consul-General White .	155	27,	Possible views of Russia with regard to Servian delay in taking the field	68
83	„ „	156	29,	Roumanian Agent has arrived, and new Russian Agent is expected to-morrow	68
84	Vice-Consul Bonham .	1	Oct. 2,	Memorandum on movements of troops through Jassy	69
85	Lord A. Loftus ..	535	3,	Rumours of mediation. Articles from the Russian press on	70
86	Sir C. Sebright ..	20	4,	State of affairs at Corfu, Cephalonia, and Zante	72
87	Mr. Layard . ..	428 Telegraphic	7,	Appeal from Grand Vizier to the loyalty of Prince Milan	73
88	„ „ . ..	429 Telegraphic	7,	Affairs more satisfactory between Turkey and Greece	73
89	„ „ . ..	430 Telegraphic	8,	Mehemet Ali's removal probably due to an intrigue. See Foreign Office telegram of 5th instant	73
90	„ „ . ..	431 Telegraphic	8,	Moukhtar Pasha puts Russian losses in three days' fighting last week at 15,000; Turkish at 2,500	74
91	To Mr. Layard ..	581 Confidential	8,	Servia. Approves language to M. Christich as reported in No. 33	74
92	Acting Consul Freeman	90	Sept. 28.	The three forts in Duga Pass in hands of Montenegrins. Reinforcements going to Herzegovina	74
93	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	254	Oct. 2,	A large party in favour of a withdrawal of the Roumanian forces at any price	75

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
94	Sir A. Buchanan ..	785	Oct. 6, 1877	Mr. Evans's complaint against police authorities in Croatia. See his No. 874. Count Andrassy denies that there were any grounds for	76
95	Mr. James, M.P. ..	..	9,	Imputation by Mr. Layard against certain Englishmen respecting supposed invention of stories in connection with the Bulgarian outrages. To obtain from Mr. Layard particulars respecting	77
96	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	8,	Resolution to attack Plevna from Sofia side. Grand Duke resigned. General Todleben in command. Rumours to this effect ..	77
97	M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius	..	Sept. 23,	Greeks freed from prison in Constantinople, by Greek Consul-General, to oppose Turkey. Asserted by Mr. Layard. A formal contradiction given to and asked for by Greece ..	77
98	„ „	..	26,	Martial law as regards foreigners in Turkey. Wishes England to join in representation to the Porte	79
99	Consul Ricketts ..	Telegraphic	Oct. 8,	15,000 rebels under arms in East Caucasus. Russians repulsed near Kars on the 3rd .	79
100	M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius	..	Sept. 22,	Greece and Turkey. Respecting Mr. Wyndham's instructions and representations ..	79
101	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	64	27,	Abazian families starved by Cossacks near Adler. Probable exaggeration	82
102	Mr. Layard . ..	1143	27,	Russia's request to bring cargoes of timber from the Upper Danube for field ambulances. Refusal of Porte to allow ..	83
103	„ „	1147	29,	Greece and Turkey. Conversation with M. Kalergi respecting recall of Greek Consul at Canea, &c. Porte still much irritated against Greece	83
104	„ „	1148 Confidential	29,	Greek assurances respecting control over Committees. Does not agree with Mr. Wyndham as to Server Pasha expressing satisfaction at	84
105	„ „	1149 Secret	29,	Strong party against Mehemet Ali. Probability of his being replaced by Suleiman Pasha	85
106	„ „	1150	27,	Protestant Armenian community at Ismid. Disturbances by Orthodox Armenians ..	86
107	„ „	1151 Secret	Oct. 1,	Italy and Turkey. Signor Tornielli hostile to Turkey	86
108	„ „	1152 Confidential	1,	Count Zichy favourably impressed by interview with the Sultan	87
109	„ „	1154	1,	Outrages on Armenian Christians by Persian Koords. Has brought to notice of Porte. See Foreign Office No. 524	87
110	„ „	1155	1,	Acts of cruelty by Russian forces. Instructions to Military Attachés and Consul Blunt, according to Foreign Office No. 488 ..	88
111	„ „	1156	1,	Greece and Turkey. See No. 103. Conversation with M. Coundourioti	89
112	„ „	1157	1,	Ali Suavi, Director of the Turkish Lyceum, has been reprimanded for abusing England in the "Vakit"	90
113	„ „	1158	1,	Protestant Bulgarians. Grand Vizier promises protection from unjust accusations ..	90
114	„ „	1159	2,	List of forty-four Bulgarians executed at and near Adrianople, between the 17th and 25th September	90
115	„ „	1160	2,	Address in Turkish to the British nation from leading Mussulmans of Constantinople expressive of gratitude. Conversation with Ahmed Tevfik Effendi	91
116	„ „	1163	2,	Question of Porte settling Circassian families in Macedonia. Complaint of Greek Government. Note on which it is founded ..	93
117	„ „	1164	3,	Closing of passage of Prevesa. Note of Server Pasha to Greek Government	94
118	„ „	1165	3,	Turkey and Greece. Fears of rupture caused by Greek revolutionary bands	95
119	„ „	1167	3,	Armenian Christians. Report by Mr. Rassam, from Diarbekir	95
120	„ „	1169	3,	Despatch from General Kemball, discrediting report of Turkish orders to give no quarter after crossing Russian frontier. See his No. 883	97

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
121	Mr. Layard . ..	1170	Oct. 3, 1877	Recent military operations in Armenia. Report from General Kemball . ..	98
122	Consul Sandwith ..	64	Sept. 29,	Affairs at Candia. Discontent prevails ..	99
123	Acting Consul Barker .	58	Oct. 2,	Numbers of irregulars in Thessaly. Despatch to Constantinople	99
124	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic	10,	Infantry of Guard arrived, about 30,000. Marched to Plevna. Intention to renew campaign next year	100
124*	Consul-General Stanley	64	6,	Greek ships loading grain at Taganrog. The way it is managed. Vagliano is the merchant loading.	100*
125	Mr. Layard . ..	432 Telegraphic	10,	Moukhtar Pasha is at the foot of Alaja Dagh. A battle going on. Convoys have entered Plevna	101
126	„ „	433 Telegraphic	11,	Positions of Turks and Russians at Alaja Dagh. From Sir A. Kemball	101
127	To Mr. Layard ..	597	11,	Black Sea blockade. (His despatch No. 898). The pass to Greek ships was, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, a breach of the rights of neutrals	101
128	Consul Kirby Green ..	107	Sept. 29,	Montenegro and Albanian mountain tribes. Policy of Austria-Hungary towards former .	102
129	Mr. Wyndham ..	248	Oct. 4,	Intended early convocation of the Chamber. Extract from the "Stoa." State of affairs .	103
130	„ „ ..	250	4,	Nomarch and Eparch of Acarnaniah removed from their offices. Troops withdrawn from frontier	104
131	Consul-General Crowe	1 Confidential	10,	Prussian orders for war material. Direct and indirect confirmation of reports respecting ..	104
132	Mr. Layard . ..	434 Telegraphic	11,	Turkish victory near Alaja Dagh	105
133	To Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic	12,	Report in "Daily News" of 1,500 Hungarians having crossed Roumanian frontier near Turn-Severin	105
134	To Lord A. Loftus ..	366	12,	Acts of plunder and cruelty by Russians. Approves language in No. 531	105
135	To Mr. Wyndham ..	79	12,	Turkey and Greece. His language in No. 234 of the 22nd ultimo is approved	105
136	„ „ ..	80	12,	Turkey and Greece. Advice to latter to keep strict and impartial neutrality. Explanation of motives of Her Majesty's Government in giving	106
137	To Mr. Layard ..	598	12,	Greek preparations. Approves advice to Server Pasha in his No. 1120	106
138	Pro-Memoriâ by Count Menabrea	..	11,	Respecting the militia of the Lebanon being employed to search for deserters. For opinion of Her Majesty's Government respecting ..	106
139	Consul Kirby Green ..	108	2,	Captain Clarke's reception at Podgoritza. Conclusions he has arrived at	107
140	Mr. Wyndham ..	251	5,	Reported note from Prince Gortchakow to Greek Government, urging declaration of war. No truth in	107
141	„ „ ..	252 Confidential	6,	Recall of Greek Consul at Canea asked for by the Porte. Grounds for refusal by M. Tricoupi	108
142	„ „ ..	254	6,	M. Tricoupi complains of conduct of Turkish authorities in different parts of the Empire .	108
143	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic	12,	Hungarian and Polish volunteers have crossed Austrian frontier into Little Wallachia ..	109
144	Mr. Layard . ..	436 Telegraphic	12,	Telegram from Grand Vizier to Prince Milan in his telegram No. 428, will not be sent at present	109
145	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	12,	Greek Government think of buying some ships in Italy	109
146	To Consul Freeman ..	Telegraphic	13,	Vice-Consul Cooper should be authorized to visit Herzegovina and the Servian frontier .	109
147	To Mr. James, M.P. .	..	13,	Bulgarian outrages in 1876. Copy of his letter of the 9th will be sent to Mr. Layard ..	109
148	To Mr. Layard ..	596	13,	Bulgarian outrages in 1876. Sends Mr. James's letter of the 9th instant	109
149	To Sir A. Buchanan .	327	13,	Telegrams from and to Mr. Layard, which were sent for private information solely ..	110
150	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic	13,	Hungarian incursion is a false alarm . ..	110
151	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic	14,	Mediation. The "Fremdenblatt" on Austrian policy	110
152	Consul-General Stanley	66	10,	Information respecting vessels loading at Berdiansk and Nicolaieff	110
153	Consul-General Crowe	2 Confidential	12,	Russian orders for war material	111

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
154	Mr. Layard ..	437 Telegraphic	Oct. 14, 1877	War report from Kemball. Daghistan revolution	111
155	Consul-General Eldridge	81	Sept. 30,	Troubles in the Ansariyeh mountains in Lattakia district. Despatch to Constanpinople .	111
156	„ „	83	30,	Bulgarian prisoners at Acre. Despatch to Constantinople	112
157	„ „	85	Oct 1,	Arrest of Maronite monks in north of Lebanon. Despatch to Constantinople ..	112
158	Acting-Consul Freeman	91	4,	State of affairs at Banialuka. Report from Vice-Consul Cooper	113
159	„ „	93	5,	Movements of Montenegrins in Herzegovina. Nothing certain known	115
160	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell .	117	11,	Transylvanian raid. Replies of M. Tisza to questions by M. Helfy	116
161	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	15,	Conciliatory note from Server Pasha to Turkish Minister at Athens. Camp at Lamia almost evacuated	116
162	Mr. Layard . ..	438 Telegraphic	15,	Russians have bombarded Sulina, but were repulsed	117
163	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic Secret	16,	Turkish force in Plevna about 55,000. From Colonel Wellesley	117
164	Consul Watkins ..	..	3,	Restoration of order at Larnaca, and respecting a forced loan. Despatch to Constantinople .	117
165	Colonel Wellesley ..	Telegraphic	15,	Enquiries respecting sending his despatches	118
166	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	16,	Moukhtar Pasha totally defeated, and cut off from Kars	118
167	Mr. Layard . ..	440 Telegraphic	16,	Ibrahim Pasha. Has made strongest representations respecting his conduct. His recall promised	118
168	„ „	441 Telegraphic	17,	Moukhtar Pasha in Kars. War news from Consul Zohrab	118
169	Lord A Loftus ..	Telegraphic	17,	Defeat of Moukhtar Pasha	119
170	Porte to Musurus Pasha	..	Sept. 26,	Greek preparations. Despatch from Photiades Bey respecting representations made by England	119
171	Mr. Layard . ..	444 Telegraphic	Oct. 18,	Account from Moukhtar Pasha of his recent defeat	120
172	To Mr. Wyndham ..	81	18,	Martial law applicable to foreign subjects. Copy of No. 98. Her Majesty's Government think all the Powers are concerned in this question	120
173	„ „ ..	83	18,	Removal of Nomarch and Eparch of Acarnania. See No. 130. Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government	120
174	To Mr. Layard ..	607	18,	Martial law and foreign subjects in Turkey. Copies of Nos. 98 and 172. How does this question stand?	120
175	„ „ ..	609	18,	Orders respecting no quarter after crossing frontier, issued to Turkish Armenian army. See his No. 1169. Consul Zohrab to give his authority	121
176	„ „ ..	610	18,	Address, in Turkish, to British nation. See his No. 1160. Will be laid before Parliament next session	121
177	„ „ ..	611	18,	Three Greek ships arrived at Kertch, in spite of the blockade. To bring to notice of the Porte	121
178	Mr. Layard . ..	1176 Very Conf.	8,	Turkey and Servia. Substance of telegram from the Grand Vizier to Prince Milan ..	121
179	„ „	1177	8,	Attack on house of Greek Consul at Larissa. See his No. 1156. Pasha of Janina denies .	122
180	„ „	1178	8,	More Ghega horse and foot Bashi-Bazouks reported at Larissa, by Vice-Consul Suter ..	122
181	„ „	1179 Confidential	8,	Turkey and Greece. The former seem more satisfied with the latter now than lately ..	123
182	„ „	1182	9,	Northern districts of Roumelia. Report by Consul Blunt	124
183	„ „	1183	9,	Executions of Philippopoli, and conduct of military authorities. Vice-Consul Calvert's reports	124
184	„ „	1184	9,	60,000 Russian troops in the Dobrudcha. Vice-Consul Sankey's information. Important to ascertain if true	128
185	„ „	1187	9,	Bulgarian executions at Adrianople since September 25. From Vice-Consul Dupuis ..	128
186	„ „	1188	9,	State of affairs at Prevesa. Report from Vice-Consul Blakeney	129

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
187	Mr. Layard . ..	1189	Oct. 9, 1877	Not true that no quarter is given by the Turks. Letter from Colonel Lennox. See Foreign Office, No. 515	129
188	„ „	1190	9,	Circassian outrages. British Vice-Consul at Rodosto reports on	131
189	„ „	1191	9,	Guns for the Bulair lines. Discontent of labourers. Despatch from Vice-Consul at Gallipoli	132
190	„ „	1192	10,	Forced war loan on inhabitants of Cyprus, and enrolment of Redifs there. Two despatches from Consul Watkins	133
191	„ „	1193	10,	Arms taken from a Greek vessel at Prevesa. Porte will restore	133
192	Colonel Wellesley ..	Telegraphic	16,	Complete defeat of Moukhtar Pasha's army ..	134
193	„ „ .	Telegraphic	16,	List of English officers supposed by Russians to be serving in Turkish army	134
194	Consul Ricketts ..	Telegraphic	18,	Moukhtar Pasha's army destroyed. Rebellion continues	134
195	Mr. Layard . ..	445 Telegraphic	19,	Kemball is at Kars	134
196	Colonel Siborne ..	Telegraphic	19,	Telegram from Engineer of Danube Commission. All in good order	135
197	Mr. Wyndham ..	260	12,	Greek Government think of buying some ships in Italy	135
198	„ „ ..	261	13,	Scheme for increase of Greek navy . ..	135
199	„ „ ..	262	13,	Stringent law for repression of brigandage, lately put into force for period of eight months	135
200	„ „ ..	263	13,	Alleged release of Greek prisoners. See Mr. Layard's No. 1185 of the 9th October Conversation with M. Tricoupi	136
201	„ „ ..	264	13,	Seizure of arms on board a Greek vessel, by Turkish authorities. See Mr. Layard's No. 1193 of the 10th instant	137
202	Mr. Layard . ..	447 Telegraphic	20,	Military information	137
203	To Consul - General Stanley	Telegraphic	20,	Authorizes expenditure of 20*l.* on clothing for Turkish merchant-seamen detained at Kherson. See his No. 65 of the 9th instant ..	137
204	To M. Gennadius ..	..	20,	Alleged release of Greek prisoners. See his letter of the 10th October	137
205	Mr. Layard . ..	448 Telegraphic	20,	Dismissal of Ibrahim Pasha. See his telegram No. 440	138
206	„ „	1197	11,	Robbery on Dr. Weller. Reports were exaggerated	138
207	„ „	1198	12,	Sultan's feelings towards the Bulgarians. Statement made by Ibrahim Pasha respecting, denied by Server Pasha. See his No. 1183 of the 9th October	139
208	„ „	1199 Confidential	12,	Relations between Turkey and Greece. Conversation with Server Pasha respecting. See his No. 806 of the 19th July	139
209	„ „	1200	12,	Relations between Servia and Turkey. It is not intended to send a Commissioner to Belgrade. See his No. 1176 of the 8th October	140
210	Consul-General White	160	3,	Expected mobilization of Servian army ..	140
211	„ „	161	3,	Policy of Servia. Conversation with M. Ristich respecting	141
212	„ „	164 Secret	15,	Negotiations between Russia and Servia. Nothing positive has transpired	142
213	Mr. Harriss-Gastrell .	116 Confidential	8,	Transylvanian-Szekler raid. Baron Weakheim has no proof of assertion that Mr. Johnstone had found funds for. See his No. 111 of the 29th September	142
214	„ „ .	119	16,	Smuggling of arms over Transylvanian frontier, M. Tisza's answer	143
215	Sir A. Buchanan ..	753 Confidential	14,	Extracts from the "Fremden Blatt." It is not a semi-official journal	143
216	Consul Sanderson ..	90	15,	Reserves for Roumanian army. Subscription for the purchase of arms ..	143
217	Mr. Macdonell ..	384 Confidential	20,	Military criticism in Germany in favour of Russia	143
218	Izzet Bey's Report (communicated by Musurus Pasha, October 22)	..	..	Report of his mission from Mehemet Ali Pasha to the Grand Duke Nicholas	144

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
219	Sir A. Buchanan ..	Telegraphic Confidential	Oct. 21, 1877	Sulina. Question of neutralization of the channel	145
220	Colonel Wellesley ..	Telegraphic	21,	Capture of redoubt by Roumanians. Recapture by Turks	145
221	Mr. Layard . ..	449 Telegraphic	21,	Military information. Telegram from Sir A. Kemball	145
222	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	Telegraphic Confidential	22,	Roumanians before Plevna. Reports of fighting	146
223	Consul Ricketts ..	Telegraphic	22,	Departure from Tiflis of Colonel Zelenoy, on a secret mission to Tehran	146
224	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	22,	Capture of a redoubt by Roumanians. Recapture by Turks. Telegram from Grand Duke	146
225	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	22,	Ibrahim Pasha's dismissal. See his telegram No. 448	146
226	„ „ ..	622	22,	Extending above	146
227	Acting-Consul Freeman	94	11,	Rumours of an intended renewal of the insurrection in Bosnia. Despatch from Vice-Consul Cooper	146
228	Mr. Löwy	..	23,	Anglo-Jewish Association. Forwards a cutting from the "Jewish Chronicle" respecting alleged atrocities at Kyzanlik ..	148
229	Mr. Layard . ..	450 Telegraphic	23,	Military information from Captain Fraser ..	151
230	To Mr. Layard ..	626	23,	M. Dussi's statements respecting Circassian outrages. Approves his intention of bringing them to the notice of the Porte. See his No. 1190 of the 9th October	151
231	„ „ ..	627	23,	Conscription of Redifs at Baalbeck. Ask Consul Eldridge to report as to the employment of the Lebanon Militia in	151
232	„ „ ..	629	23,	Relations between Greece and Turkey. Approves language to M. Kalergi. See his No. 1147 of the 29th September . ..	152
233	„ „ ..	630	23,	Relations between Greece and Turkey. Approves language to M. Coundouriotti. See his No. 1156 of the 1st October	152
234	„ „ ..	631	23,	Policy of Turkey respecting Greece. Approves his advice to the Grand Vizier. See his No. 1165 of the 3rd October	152
235	„ „ ..	632	23,	State of affairs at Philippopolis. Approves his intention of calling Sultan's attention to proceedings of Ibrahim Pasha. See his No. 1183 of the 9th October ..	152
236	„ „ ..	633	23,	Approves Mr. Rassam's proceedings. See Mr. Layard's No. 1167 of the 3rd October .	153
237	„ „ ..	635	23,	Approves his instructions to Military Attachés to verify any reports of cruelties on Mahomedans, in districts occupied by Russians. See his No. 1155 of the 1st October ..	153
238	„ „ ..	636	23,	Unfortunate position of Bulgarian Protestants. Approves his having called attention of Grand Vizier to. See his No. 1158 of the 1st October	153
239	Mr. Wood	44 Confidential	15,	Question of a Tunisian contingent for Turkey. Report of a conversation with the Regent. See Foreign Office No. 17 of the 19th September	153
240	Mr. Löwy	..	24,	Anglo-Jewish Association. Proposes that the survivors of the massacres at Kyzanlik should be sent to their homes. See his letter of the 23rd October	155
241	Consul Sandwith ..	65	13,	Imprisonment of M. Argyraki and of six Bulgarians. Despatch to Mr. Layard respecting	155
242	Mr. Wyndham ..	266	15,	Conciliatory policy of Turkey as to Greece. Note to Photiades Bey	156
243	„ „ ..	267 Secret and Conf.	15,	Fuller details respecting above. See his No. 224, Confidential, of the 8th September ..	156
244	„ „ ..	268 Confidential	17,	Convention between Greece and Russia. Denied by M. Tricoupi. See his No. 251 of the 5th October	157
245	Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	25,	Contradicts M. Cogalniceano's statement respecting alleged acts of cruelty committed by Turkish soldiers	157
	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	25,	Capture of convoy of provisions on road to Plevna. Official report	158

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
247	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	Oct. 25, 1877	Report of death of Prince Serge Leuchtenberg	158
248	Mr. Layard ..	452 Telegraphic	25,	Several Russian defeats. Information from Porte respecting	158
249	„ „ ..	453 Telegraphic	25,	Critical situation of Turks in Asia Minor. Telegram from General Kemball.. ..	158
250	„ „ ..	454 Telegraphic	25,	Military information. Telegram from Consul Zohrab forwarding	158
251	„ „ ..	455 Telegraphic	26,	Asks for list of British ships detained on account of Black Sea blockade	159
252	To Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic	26,	Jewish refugees from Kyzanlik. To make inquiries about	159
253	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	26,	Jewish refugees from Kyzanlik. Would it be safe for them to return?	159
254	„ „ ..	649	26,	Sultan's alleged unfriendly feelings towards Bulgarians. Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction Server Pasha's denial of Ibrahim Pasha's statement respecting. See his No. 1198 of 12th October ..	159
255	„ „ ..	650	26,	Proposed transfer of Greek Consul at Canea. Approves his advice to Server Pasha respecting. See his No. 1199, Confidential, of 12th October..	160
256	To Mr. Löwy ..	..	26,	Jewish refugees from Kyzanlik. Steps taken for relief of. See his letters of 23rd and 24th October	160
257	To Consul-General White	52	26,	Attitude of Servian Government. Approves language to M. Ristich respecting. See his No. 161, Political, of 3rd October ..	160
258	Mr. Layard ..	1202	12,	Conduct of Albanian irregulars. Despatch from Mr. Barker respecting	160
259	„ „ ..	1205	14,	Aali Pasha's arrival at Prevesa. Favourable impression produced by. Despatch from Mr. Blakeney respecting	165
260	„ „ ..	1211	16,	List of Bulgarians executed. Despatches from Vice-Consuls Calvert and Dupuis ..	166
261	„ „ ..	1212	16,	Acts of cruelty on Mussulman population in districts occupied by Russia. Despatch from Colonel Lennox	169
262	„ „ ..	1213	16,	The Geshoffs. Will be sent to Constantinople in a few days. Despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert	170
263	„ „ ..	1214	16,	The Abazian immigration. Despatch from Vice-Consul at Ineboli	170
264	„ „ ..	1215	16,	"Cockatrice" will remain at Sulina at present. Despatch from Captain Musgrave ..	171
265	„ „ ..	1216	16,	Telegram referred to in his No. 1176. Server Pasha still hesitates about sending it to Prince Milan	171
266	„ „ ..	1218	17,	Better feeling towards Greece	171
267	„ „ ..	1219	17,	Treatment of wounded and capture of prisoners. Despatch from Captain Fife	172
268	Mr. Wyndham ..	271	19,	Transmission of criminals to Greece from Constantinople. Respecting publication of Mr. Layard's letter of 12th ultimo to M. Condouriotti	173
269	„ „ ..	272	20,	List of troops reviewed by the King on the 18th instant	173
270	Consul Ricketts ..	Telegraphic	26,	Battle of 15th. Official statement exaggerated.	174
271	Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	27,	Refugee Jews have left Bucharest for Constantinople	174
272	Sir A. Paget ..	366 Confidential	16,	Signor Crispi's language. See Foreign Office despatch No. 328 respecting. Italian intentions. Not authorized by the Government	174
273	Mr. Layard ..	1225	19,	Conduct of Ibrahim Pasha, Governor of Philippopoli. See his despatch No. 1183. Conversation with Sultan respecting. Orders sent for his recall	175
274	„ „ ..	458 Telegraphic	28,	Junction of Moukhtar and Ismail Pasha's armies	176
275	„ „ ..	459 Telegraphic	28,	Ismail Pasha has retreated to Delibaba. From Sir A. Kemball	176
276	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	28,	Negotiations supposed by "Golos" to be commenced for surrender of Kars ..	176
277	To Mr. Wood ..	21	29,	Tunisian contingent. Advice in his No. 44 is approved; but he should not give advice as to the form the assistance should be given in	176

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
278	Consul-General Eldridge	88	Oct. 14, 1877	Treatment of certain Bulgarian prisoners. Despatch to Constantinople	176
279	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	30,	Turkish position at Telische bombarded by General Gourko	179
280	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	30,	Corps in pursuit of Ismaïl Pasha at Karakilissa.	179
281	To Mr. Layard ..	654	30,	Atrocities on Jews at Kyzanlik. To report respecting	179
282	Porte to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	29,	Mussulmans at Tchiros attacked by Cossacks..	179
283	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	260	12,	Roumanian force will be sent against the Hungarian band who have entered Wallachia from Austria	179
284	„ „ ..	263	13,	Arrival of volunteers from Hungary. A false alarm	180
285	„ „ ..	268 Confidential	23,	Roumanian loss in the attack on Plevna on 20th. Prince Charles responsible for the attack. No Russians concerned in it ..	180
286	Porte to Musurus Pasha	..	11,	Report by Kaïmakam of Eski-Zaghra on the Russian occupation	181
287	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	30,	Russian advances to Greece. Information of..	184
288	Mr. Layard ..	461 Telegraphic	30,	Military news from Sir A. Kemball.. ..	184
289	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	31,	Messrs. Geshoff. How does the case stand?..	185
290	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	31,	Blockade. See his telegram No. 455. Her Majesty's Government cannot be a party to proposed arrangement	185
291	To Mr. Wyndham ..	87	31,	Military preparations in Greece. Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at hearing they will cease, as reported in his No. 266 ..	185
292	To Mr. Layard ..	658	31,	Blockade. Extending telegram of October 31	185

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XVIII.

No. 1.

Consul White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 92.) *Tangier, September* 24, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to Sir John Drummond Hay's despatches No. 37 of 17th May, No. 39 of 31st May, and No. 45 of 18th June, that Cid Ibrahim Senoory, the emissary of the Sultan Abdul Hamid, left this port for Gibraltar and Alexandria on the 19th instant.

I am informed that Cid Ibrahim was well received at the Moorish Court, although he had not the reception of a foreign Envoy. He bears the reply of Sultan Mulai Hassan to the letter brought by him from Sultan Abdul Hamid. He has received four horses and three mules as presents to himself from Sultan Mulai Hassan.

I understand that presents are being prepared at Fez, which will be forwarded hereafter to the Sultan of the Ottomans at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE P. WHITE.

No. 2.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, September* 30, 1877.

THE Hungarian referred to in my despatch No. 743 of the 20th instant appears to have intended to cross the Transylvanian frontier yesterday with about 500 men and proceed to Galatz by mountain-paths to destroy the railway bridge. The enterprize has been prevented by the Government, and some arms and accoutrements have been seized. The newspapers connect this intended raid with the landing of the Turks opposite Silistria.

No. 3.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 19 *Septembre,* 1877.

LES Puissances Signataires de la Convention de Genève ont appelé dernièrement l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur les mauvais traitements que les prisonniers et les blessés de l'armée Russe auraient subis dans les Balkans.

Bien que le Gouvernement Impérial fût parfaitement sûr de l'esprit de discipline et

d'humanité qui règne dans les armées Ottomanes, il n'a pas hésité à faire parvenir à tous les Chefs de corps des armées Impériales, tant en Europe qu'en Asie, de nouvelles et pressantes recommandations pour l'observation rigoureuse des lois de la guerre envers les ennemis prisonniers ou blessés.

A la suite de cette communication, la Sublime Porte a reçu des Commandants des armées Impériales les informations suivantes:—

Il est défendu sous les peines les plus sévères de mettre à mort les prisonniers ou d'achever les ennemis blessés. Les Commandants veillent avec une sollicitude toute particulière à ce que cette règle soit scrupuleusement respectée.

La meilleure preuve à donner, au surplus, de notre respect pour la vie des ennemis blessés, c'est que nos hôpitaux en contiennent un grand nombre qui y reçoivent les mêmes soins que nos soldats.

En portant ces informations à la connaissance du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, vous voudrez bien expliquer que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a point la pensée de se plaindre de la démarche des Puissances amies dont nous n'avons jamais cessé de reconnaître les bonnes intentions, mais seulement de rétablir sur ce point la vérité pour l'honneur de l'armée Impériale.

En regard de ces explications si sincères et si loyales, je dois vous faire connaître de quelle manière l'ennemi entend observer les Conventions Internationales et les lois de l'humanité.

Vous n'ignorez pas, M. l'Ambassadeur, qu'à la suite des négociations entamées par l'entremise du Président de la Confédération Suisse et avec le concours des Puissances Signataires de la Convention de Genève, la Russie a accepté formellement la substitution du Croissant Rouge à la Croix Rouge comme signe de neutralité des hôpitaux et des ambulances des armées Ottomanes. Le Grand Duc Nicolas a confirmé cette résolution à Mehmed Ali Pacha et expressément déclaré que, désormais et de part et d'autre, les deux signes de neutralité seraient respectés conformément à la Convention de Genève.

Cet engagement n'a pas été respecté par les armées Russes, ainsi que l'attestent les faits suivants qui sont signalés par Moukhtar Pacha:—

Durant la bataille de Guédikler, Hussein Pacha, qui commandait l'aile gauche, avait fait avancer une ambulance du Croissant Rouge; mais les Russes, sans respect pour le signe de la neutralité, ont couvert de projectiles le lieu même où l'on relevait les blessés.

Le même jour, les Russes, ayant envoyé des brancardiers avec le signe de la Croix Rouge pour relever leurs morts tombés au pied des hauteurs de Kisil-Tépé, nos ambulances se sont avancées à leur tour dans la même intention et couvertes du Croissant Rouge; mais elles ont été accueillies par un feu violent, et forcées de se retirer.

En donnant connaissance de ces faits au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, vous voudrez bien le prier instamment, au nom de la Sublime Porte, d'engager le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg à faire respecter désormais les stipulations de la Convention de Genève, aussi bien sur les champs de bataille de l'Asie que sur ceux de l'Europe.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERVER.

No. 4

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 2.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Septembre*, 1877.

D'APRES les informations qui nous parviennent d'Athènes, le Gouvernement Hellénique continue ses préparatifs militaires avec une activité de plus en plus grande.

En outre, indépendamment d'une bande partie de l'Eubée pour la Macédoine, le fameux Skaltzoyani a franchi la frontière du côté de l'Epire. Détails par courrier.

No. 5.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October 1*, 1877.

MOBILIZATION appears to have been ordered secretly, as all officers and doctors are leaving Belgrade for their respective detachments. Sent to Constantinople.

No. 6.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 1*, 1877.

I AM told that, as seizures of arms and ammunition for the intended invasion of Roumania by an Hungarian free corps are taking place daily, the force which had been enrolled, and of which it is said General Klapka was to have taken the command, must have been considerable.

No. 7.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 1*, 1877.

AN answer has been received from the Russian Government to Count Andrassy's note on the subject of the blockading of the Danube. I understand that it states readiness to have the obstruction removed if the interests of the army can be protected by other means; and as the military measures suggested by Count Andrassy are considered to be inefficient for that purpose, it states that the neutralization of the Sulina channel is the only condition on which the proposed removal of the obstruction can be agreed to.

No. 8.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 2*, 1877.

THE papers publish this evening a telegram from General Klapka denying his having had any knowledge of the intended foray into Roumania.

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 421.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 2*, 1877, 8·30 A.M.

TELEGRAM from Vice-Consul Calvert states that Ibrahim Pasha informs him that Gueshoffs will be sent to Constantinople in two or three days.

No. 10.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 63. Consular.)

My Lord, *Bosna Seraï, September 17*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith two Road Reports received lately from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper. These reports describe parts of route No. 6 in Mr. Cooper's Index to proposed Road Reports in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Bosnia, Route No. 6.—Gradiska to Bosna Seraï, viâ Banjaluka, Jaice, and Travnik. Distance 152 English miles.

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate in Furlongs.	
Gradiska (Alt Gradiska and Berbir)	..	..	Fortresses on both banks of the Save, the Austrian being called Alt Gradiska, and the Turkish, Berbir, but both spoken of as Gradiska. The Austrian fortress of Alt Gradiska is of bastion trace with wet ditch, the scarp revetment of masonry; a heavy covered way protects the river front. The interior of fort filled with houses, only five of which are in occupation of civilians; the remainder are used as barracks, hospital, church, offices, and store-houses. The garrison consists of two companies infantry, with detachment of artillery and supply corps staff; Lieutenant-Colonel as Commandant, Place-Commandant as Fort Major, Captain of Engineers, Lieutenant of Artillery. The works require 200 guns, the greater part of which are in store; the bakery and other supply buildings are in good order; the trees on glacis and in fort would afford any quantity of timber; water-supply from the Save. Two field batteries are kept in store, complete with waggons, &c. Food would have to be sent in; no large quantity is kept on hand, though the store-houses are good and large. Outside the fortress there are two suburbs, Ober- and Unter-Varos along the river bank. The surrounding country is under water whenever the Save overflows, and the road to Neu Gradiska is carried across this inundatable land on causeway with numerous wooden bridges. The steamers on the Save call regularly at Ober-Varos, but the chief trade on the river seems to be with the Turkish town of Berbir, where there is a constant demand for salt. The Save is crossed by ferry. The Turkish fort of Berbir stands on south bank of Save, a little below the Austrian fort, and in better position for commanding the river, as it is at head of re-entering bend. The work of irregular trace has a dry ditch, with masonry revetment crumbling away, and the river face quite exposed. It is garrisoned by Turkish soldiers. The town, with a population of 1,500, clusters closely round the fort and along the Save below the fort. Though the residence of a Kaïmakam, it is a dirty place, but seems busy, and there are a few large houses. As on the Austrian side, the country round is liable to inundation. The high road to Banjaluka, which is supposed to be the best in Bosnia, and certainly laid out with good intentions, crosses this open inundatable land on causeway, which is now in wretched state of repair. It is wide enough for two carriages to go abreast.
Rovinje	4 m. 5½ fur.	37·45	About one mile from Berbir the ground is slightly higher, and scattered houses line the road as far as Rovinje. These houses stand in their own plots of maize, and are very wretched hovels. A great air of misery and squalor characterizes both Berbir and and its surroundings. The road is almost level, 30 feet wide in metalling, and between the fences there is generally 50 yards. Owing to the width and light traffic, the road is in pretty good repair, but it wants attention. An attempt has been made to grow trees along the sides, but the Bosniacs seem to have a particular spite against young timber, and nearly all have been destroyed. From Rovinje the road runs across a dead level, now a desert, a few scanty plots of maize alone showing any signs of cultivation. Some few lean cattle, trying to

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate in Furlongs.	
Rovinje (*continued*)—	4 m. 5½ fur.	37·45	pick a little food from the parched plain, with their wretched herds, are the only living beings visible. The summer sun has dried up most of the pools, and the barren appearance of the whole has been much increased, the brushwood for some 100 yards on either side of the wood having been cut and burnt, in order not to leave any cover for robbers.
Han Sebcin	9 m. 3 fur.	37·45	Han Sebcin, a solitary European house, kept by an Italian, is the only habitation on the desert. It is at present occupied by soldiers, who are placed at intervals along the road for the protection of travellers.
Military Post ..	14 m. ½ fur.	37·45	A few miles further on one of these posts is fortified against infantry. The work consists in small redoubt, capable of holding some 30 men. It is very neatly finished. The revetment of wicker-work has been carried above the parapet, and loopholes cut in it, so that the garrison are not exposed even when firing. No attempt has been made to place obstacles round. The redoubt is situated on level near the road, and the brushwood has been cleared away for some 200 yards in all directions. It stands just at edge of desert, and after passing this post cultivation begins again, and inclosed fields are passed. On nearing Klasnice, the spurs of the Kozara hills on the right, and the Verbas on the left, begin to close in on the road, and signs of habitation are visible.
Klesnice	19 m.	37·45	At Klesnice the hills meet the Verbas, along the banks of which the road is carried for a short distance. The road from the Banjaluka to Derwent (Route No. 5A) here branches off, and crosses the Verbas by a wooden bridge, passable for carriages.
Railway Crossing ..	23 m. 3½ fur.	37·45	On leaving Klasnice the hills open out again, and quitting the side of the river the road continues across a fertile plain to the level crossing of the Banjaluka-Novi Railway. This, a single line, runs from Doberlin, on the Una, a little below Novi, to Banjaluka; distance 68 miles. It has not been worked since the outbreak of the insurrection. The rolling-stock and five locomotives are at the Banjaluka terminus. The company is a French one, and at the time of the construction of the line it was intended to connect the European system at Sissen with the Turkish line from Salonica to Mitrovica, by Bosna-Seraï. The insurrection put a stop to all such ideas, and it seems doubtful whether such a line would ever pay, the country between Mitrovica and Bosna-Seraï being very hilly, and but thinly populated; whilst, in addition, the jealousies between the Hungarians and Slavs have prevented any steps being taken to connect Oberlin with the existing Austrian railways. The French company is represented by a German station-master at Banjaluka, who is in charge of the buildings and stock. The permanent way is in good order, as far as I have yet had an opportunity of examining, up to Ivanjsha. The Verbas railway and road run parallel across the level cultivated land for some three miles. The road is bordered by trees, and in very fair order.
Railway Station ..	26 m. 7½ fur.	28·08	A mile from the outskirts of Banjaluka the railway-station is passed on the left, and, turning to the right, the road skirts a large open space devoted to the exercise of the troops. On the opposite side of the Verbas, and not far from the railway-station, the Trappist brothers have built a large convent, holding fifty cells, with hospital, orphanage, corn-mill, and brewery attached. A ferry, capable of carrying one loaded waggon, crosses the river. To the right of the road, on some rising ground overlooking the exercising plain, is another, but smaller, monastery, belonging to the Franciscans. The site occupied by this monastery is admirably suited for barracks and military hospital. The soil is

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate in Furlongs.	
Railway Station (*continued*)—	26 m. 7½ fur.	28·08	chalky, and there are several springs in the immediate neighbourhood; whilst its nearness to the plain gives every opportunity for drilling large bodies of all arms.
Banjaluka	28 m. ½ fur.	9·36	Banjaluka, population 15,000; described Route No. 6A. On leaving the town the road runs along left bank of Verbas, which is rapid, and flowing between high banks. The ground becomes more hilly as the road advances; and at Great Seker the hills close in. The mountain road by Skendor Vakuf to Travnik (Route No. 6A) here branches off, crossing to the right bank of the Verbas by wooden bridge.
Great Seker	30 m. 3½ fur.	18·72	The carriage-road passes through the narrow streets of Great Seker, which is greatly resorted to by the inhabitants of Banjaluka, on account of its natural warm bath. The ascent is very steep and the road excessively bad through the upper part of the village, but it improves on leaving the houses, and runs along the face of cliff overhanging the Verbas.

Compiled from Austrian Staff Map, 1876 ($\frac{1}{300000}$), and personal observation.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER, *Vice-Consul in Bosnia.*

Banjaluka, September 6, 1877.

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

BOSNIA, Route No. 6.—Gradiska to Bosna Seraï, viâ Banjaluka, Jaice, and Travnik. Distance 152 English miles.

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate in Furlongs.	
Travnik	99 m. 4½ fur.	..	Described in Route No. 6A. The road descends the left bank of the Lasva through a rocky defile for some 2 miles, when the valley opens out into a broad plain.
Gavno Bridge ..	101 m. 7½ fur.	18·72	A bridge across the Lasva leads to another road from Travnik by the right bank.
			The rugged slopes of the Vlasic planina gradually fall away to the north-east, and half-way up their side, 3 miles to the left, stands the large Latin Monastery of Guéjagora. *Vide* Evans' Bosnia, 1875, p. 177.
Lasva Bridge.. ..	106 m. 5 fur.	37·45	The hills close in again on the right bank, to which the road crosses by a wooden bridge. The Lasva is here in summer a straggling shallow stream, but its wide bed shows that at flood-time it must bring down a very large volume of water.
Vitez	107 m. 6½ fur.	9·36	At Vitez, Christian village, with church, the hills have again receded, and the road from Brood by the valley of the Bosna is seen winding down the slopes of the Bile planina.
Road to Campagnielli Han	108 m. 7½ fur.	9·36	Beyond Vitez there is a small han, where the road bifurcates. The old Turkish road, which the telegraph follows, keeps on the right bank of the Lasva: the other and better one crosses the river by a wooden bridge, and in half a mile joins the Brood post road at Han Campagnielli (Route No. 5). The latter is the road generally followed by wheeled traffic. It is not so hilly as that by the right bank, the distance to Busovaca is about the same, and it is kept in better repair.
			The old road leaves the river bank, and turning slightly inland crosses very rough wooded ground with but few habitations and little cultivation. No attempt is made to keep it in repair, and the descent to the Brood road before entering Busovaca is exceedingly rough.
Brood Road	113 m. 5 fur.	37·45	
Busovaca	114 m. 6½ fur.	9·36	From Busovaca the road to Bosna Seraï is described in Route No. 5.
Bosna Seraï	152 m.		

Compiled from Austrian Staff Map, 1876 ($\frac{1}{300000}$), and personal observation, in August 1877.

The section (Part II of this route) from Banjaluka by Jaice to Travnik, will be described as soon as I have had an opportunity of going over this road.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER, *Vice-Consul in Bosnia.*

Banjaluka, September 7, 1877.

No. 11.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 87. Political.)

Bosna Serai, September 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper reports from Banjaluka that the Mutessarif, Salih Pasha, is very active in his endeavours to suppress brigandage, although the justice of the measures he adopts is certainly open to doubt. Fifteen robbers have been killed in the district of Banjaluka since Salih Pasha's arrival, but none seem to have been captured alive, and I much fear that every man killed by the troops and Bashi-Bazouks is put down as a robber without further inquiry.

According to Mr. Cooper's report, "the Mutessarif says that these robbers are as much the enemies of the peasants as of the Government, and that he relies on the aid of the inhabitants in his endeavours to suppress brigandage. From other sources, I have heard that the Mutessarif now holds the inhabitants responsible for any breach of the peace which may take place in their village. This may account for the fact that, whenever a fire takes place, some of the inhabitants are immediately made prisoners. This rule, if actually enforced, must bear very heavily on the Christian peasants, who are not permitted to carry arms, whilst, of course, the robbers are thoroughly armed. When this was pointed out to the Mutessarif, he stated that all the villagers had arms, at the same time admitting that, if found with them, they would be punished. This preventing the peasants protecting themselves with one hand, and punishing them for being robbed with the other, seems a strange kind of justice."

Mr. Cooper also makes some observations on the continued employment by the Government of Bashi-Bazouks, but, at the present moment, when every available soldier is required on the Danube, it is difficult to reproach the Turkish Government on this score. There is, at the same time, much truth in Mr. Cooper's remarks that "it will be impossible to restore confidence or quiet in this country, as long as a large number of the population are withdrawn from their usual avocations, armed and sent to patrol about the country without discipline or any responsible leader. The people here, both Mahometan and Christian, seem of a worse description than those I have seen in other parts of Bosnia, and though I do not think the animosity between the creeds is so great as to bring about atrocities such as have occurred in Bulgaria, yet the people are such an ignorant set, that, should the regular troops be withdrawn, very probably slight disorders would break out in certain districts."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 12.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 88. Political.)

Bosna Serai, September 20, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 80, Political, of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch marked Confidential, which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, regarding Captain Milinkovic's tour in Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

(Confidential.)

Banjaluka, Bosnia, September 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that Captain Milinkovic, of the Austrian Staff, at present employed as Vice-Consul in Bosnia, arrived here on Friday evening, the 14th instant.

He left Bosna-Serai on the 24th August, and, travelling by Travnik and Livno, joined Ismet Pasha at Grahovo. Thence he proceeded along the frontier to Bihac, and, descending the Una to Dubica, after a short visit to Agram, came on here vid Alt Gradiska.

I believe the object of the journey has been to arrange matters with Ismet Pasha relative to the Turkish entry on Austrian territory during the late operations against Despotovic, and also to inspect the arrangements made by the Turks for the maintenance of order along the frontier.

Captain Milinkovic leaves here to-morrow to inspect the guards along the Dervent road, where the Austrian post has, during the summer, been occasionally interrupted, and thence returns to Bosna-Serai by the Servian frontier.

This is not Captain Milinkovic's first visit to Bosnia. He was employed on the survey of Bosnia and adjacent countries in 1872-73, and, being a Slav, is able to converse freely with all classes of the native population, so that his observations at the present moment have some value.

He states that the Turkish authorities have uniformly received him with more than ordinary civility, and in places their reception was even cordial.

Captain Milinkovic says that Despotovic and his band retired before the Turks into Austrian territory without any fighting. This is very different to the story given by Ismet Pasha in his report.

The Turkish posts along the frontier keep so bad a look out, that they are totally unfit to prevent any band from passing. When a farm is destroyed, cattle lifted, or somebody fired at, the Turks send out a patrol which generally moves in such an irregular manner that, at the sight of the armed men, everyone takes to flight. The Turks take this flight as a sign of guilt, and fire on the fugitives; happily, as a rule, without a result, but occasionally they succeed in capturing some unfortunate country people, who are led away prisoners as insurgents.

Captain Milinkovic states that, without doubt, there are several bands of robbers about along the frontier, and in the Kraina; and that, seeing the futile measures adopted by the Turks for their suppression, it is very possible that these robbers will, during the winter, cause more trouble than has yet been experienced in this province.

The insurrection, as a political movement, has ceased to exist, and those insurgents who still remain in arms are capable of inflicting more damage as robbers moving in small bands than when they attempted more ambitious attacks in larger bodies.

Captain Milinkovic thinks that, though the Turkish dispositions are at present inadequate to put down robbery, there are still sufficient zaptiehs and troops, if properly handled, in the disturbed districts to restore order without the employment of Bashi-Bazouks. The latter force Captain Milinkovic considers worse than useless; they were never feared by the insurgents, who, while they would exchange shots with the Bashi-Bazouks, never faced the regulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 13.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 89. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, September 21, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the town of Bilek, in the Herzegovina, has been occupied by the Montenegrins. I believe little or no resistance was offered, as the town is not fortified or in any way capable of sustaining a siege, and the garrison only consisted of a very weak battalion of infantry.

M. Dozon informs me that the Mussulman population of Nichsich and Bilek is arriving in great numbers, and in a very miserable condition at Mostar. Not less than 1,700 persons have already arrived, and many more are expected, as there appears to be quite a panic in the country, and probably the inhabitants of the remaining Mussulman villages in the Herzegovina will all flock towards Mostar. The authorities find great difficulty in affording shelter to so many, and M. Dozon states that all the Turkish houses now occupied by Christians are taken for the purpose, the present tenants being turned out.

The inhabitants of Gacko appear to be especially dismayed, and have demanded succour. It is said that a body of Bashi-Bazouks will be sent from this district to-morrow for their protection. This seems to me inexplicable, as M. Dozon reports that, with the exception of two battalions, the troops have been withdrawn from Gacko, and that at the

present moment there are three battalions in idleness encamped outside Mostar, and four others at Blagai, a distance of about six miles. I can hardly fancy that an attack on Mostar is feared, and that the troops have been assembled in the neighbourhood in view of such an eventuality. Zeki and Hussein Pashas are also said to have returned to Mostar.

I have much pleasure in reporting that both the Mussulman fugitives and the troops speak in the highest terms of the humane conduct of Prince Nicholas and the Montenegrins. No excesses at all appear to have been perpetrated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 14.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 166. Political.) *Scutari, September 24, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE humane treatment of the inhabitants of Nichsich by the Prince of Montenegro has been confirmed to me by all the Turkish authorities; and the following extract on the same subject from a letter addressed to me by Prince Nicholas' Secretary explains the reason why the place has been abandoned by its Mussulman inhabitants:—

"Malevolent spectators have arrived lately from the latter place (Nicsich), and are constrained to admit the nobleness of the behaviour of all Montenegrins, from His Highness downwards, and the perfect order preserved in the captured town. Part of the Mussulman inhabitants intended at first to remain, but they were deterred by the dread of Turkish vengeance if the former masters came back. All were allowed to march off either to Gatsko or Spuz, at their choice, with all their chattels, and seen safely through all Montenegrin and insurgents' posts. A great many sick and some wounded, in an awful state of neglect, had to be left behind, and are taken capital care of."

Orders from Constantinople directed that the refugees who had arrived in Albania should be allotted lands, and have houses built at Gurs, near the mouth of the River Matia, to the south of Alessio, but the notoriously insalubrious character of the locality made the refugees declare they would return at once to Nichsich rather than occupy Gurs; and I now understand that it is proposed to remove them to some point in the vicinity of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 15.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

Vienna, October 2, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT ANDRASSY, having been absent some days, has not yet seen Russian answer to his note respecting blockading of the Danube. He returns, however, to-night, and Baron Schlegel will propose to him to-morrow, as Russia has accepted your Lordship's proposal for the neutralization of the Sulina Channel, to intimate without delay his readiness to recommend it to the acceptance of the Porte, but he fears the Turkish Government will probably object to it, as it would deprive them of the use of the port of Sulina. I therefore said that the neutralization of the port does not appear to be included in your proposal, and that Russia can have no right to claim greater advantages than blockading of the river now affords her. He said that a protocol would, in his opinion, be required, declaring the temporary neutralization of the channel, and he thought that the communications with the Porte on the subject should be made by telegraph.

No. 16.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

Vienna, October 2, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I UNDERSTAND that the Sulina Channel having as yet suffered little injury, is attributed to the Russians having left an opening in the dam for their own use, but which they are ready to close if the Turks attempt to pass through it.

It would, therefore, be more advantageous to the Porte to consent to the neutralization of the channel than to leave it open to Russian and closed to Turkish vessels, as it now is.

No. 17.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 423.) *Therapia, October 3, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

MOUKHTAR PASHA telegraphs that, on 28th ultimo, he was attacked at Kizil Kale, near Nahtchwan, by eight battalions of infantry, two regiments of cavalry, and eight guns, and that Russians were repulsed with considerable loss. At the same time, another attack on Turkish right of four battalions infantry, two regiments cavalry, and two batteries, was also defeated. Kemball confirms this, and states Russian loss was severe.

No. 18.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 424.) *Therapia, October 2, 1877, 10 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

MEHEMET ALI PASHA has been replaced by Suleiman Pasha, who has already proceeded to take command of the army of the Danube. Raouf Pasha, Minister of Marine, takes Suleiman Pasha's place.

No. 19.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 3.)

St. Petersburgh, October 2, 1877, 8 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE learnt from M. de Giers to-day that Colonel Ali Haidar Bey, taken prisoner at Nicopolis, is now at Orel.

Please inform Mr. Layard.

No. 20.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 3, 1877, 5:30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed by Lord A. Loftus that Colonel Ali Haidar Bey, taken prisoner at Nicopolis, is now at Orel.

No. 21.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 134.)
Tehran, September 5, 1877.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 116 of the 6th August, I have the honour to inclose herewith translation of a further Memorandum addressed to me by the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, inclosing a letter which he had received from the Deputy Governor of Azerbaijan, complaining of the protection afforded by the Turkish authorities to the Persian Shekak Kurds and their leader Ahmed Agha, and pointing out his inability to inflict punishment on the perpetrators of the recent outrages on the Christians at Albakh, in Turkish territory, so long as the protection of the Turkish Government continues to be extended to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Meerza Houssein Khan to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

August 23, 1877.

(Translation.)

AS it was promised to his Excellency the British Minister to let him see the Saheb Divan's letter, in original, respecting the Shekak tribe, it is herewith inclosed, and his Excellency after a perusal of the same will perceive that, as stated by this Department in its previous Memorandum, on the one hand the Turkish authorities invite and entice the Shekak tribe in various ways, both openly and secretly, to cross into Turkish territory for a holy war, and then unite them join a body of 30,000 men, horse and foot. As no provisions or forage were given to these men permission was granted to make plundering excursions, and then, although the whole body of these 30,000 men had been engaged in plundering, the Turkish authorities immediately claimed the plunder from the Persians as having been committed by the body of Shekaks, who had been invited by themselves, alone. On the other hand, when the Persian authorities, in a spirit of friendship and courtesy, take steps for recovering that amount of plunder which had fallen into the hands of the Shekaks, and prepare to punish the perpetrators, they (the Turkish authorities) immediately give a dress of honour to Ahmed Agha, who took part in the outrage, and instigate his lawless followers to repair to Turkey, where they will be quartered near Albagh and protected. The Persian Government is really astonished at these proceedings of the Turkish authorities, and feels surprised at these acts of theirs, opposed as they are to each other. When the Persian Government asks the Turkish Legation for assurances that the Shekaks will not be allowed to enter Turkish territory, so that steps may be taken for their punishment, objections are made to giving such assurances, although whatever property which had been plundered from the Armenians and had fallen into the hands of these Shekaks was recovered and restored, and the only thing left to be done is the punishment of the culprits.

This Department, therefore, expects that Ahmed Agha, who has received a dress of honour from the Turkish authorities, and who has been taken to Albagh, will be delivered up, and that neither the Shekaks nor their lawless characters will be allowed to enter Turkey; and that full assurances to this effect will be given through his Excellency the British Minister, so that suitable measures may be adopted for the punishment of the offenders.

His Excellency will, of his sense of justice, no doubt agree as to the equitable nature of the demands made by this Department.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

The Deputy Governor of Azerbaijan to Meerza Houssein Khan.

August 1877.

(Translation.)

THE Sheikh-ul-Islam of Salmas having addressed to me a letter, I have the honour to inclose it for your perusal. Of the property of the Armenian villages of the district of

Bayazid, whatever was in the possession of Ali Khan and his people has been restored. The person who was the main cause of these proceedings is Ahmed Agha, the son of Ali Khan, whose arrest and punishment you have ordered. He has fled into Turkish territory, where he has been received and given a dress of honour and assurances (of safety); he has also been promised quarters in the neighbourhood of Albagh. This is at variance with the complaints made by the Turkish authorities, who, on the one hand, complain that the Shekak tribe has gone and plundered the villages inhabited by the Armenians, whilst, on the other, they give a dress of honour to Ahmed Agha and protect him. Your Highness must discuss the subject with the Turkish Legation and make the necessary arrangements, so that Ahmed Agha may not be allowed to remain in Turkey. He must be duly punished. To tell the truth, the evil doings of the Shekak have passed all limit. In all, they pay a revenue of 2,000 tomans a year to the State and plunder people to at least the amount of 50,000 tomans per annum. This tribe must be entirely got rid of or a proper punishment inflicted upon them, so that in future they do not dare to go about plundering and committing other outrages.

No. 22.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 135.)
Tehran, September 5, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the outrage recently committed by the Persian Shekak Kurds on the Christian inhabitants of two Persian villages in the vicinity of Oroomiah, which was reported in Mr. Abbott's despatch to me of the 20th of August, a copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship direct from Her Majesty's Consulate-General at Tabreez, I have the honour to inclose copies of two communications which I have addressed to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, urging the Shah's Government to adopt full and immediate measures for the punishment of the perpetrators of those atrocious acts, and for the effective protection of the Christians of those districts from the recurrence of similar outrages.

I also submit, for your Lordship's information, translations of the Minister's reply and of the instructions sent by him to the Deputy Governor of Azerbaijan for the recovery of the property plundered, and for the punishment of the Kurds implicated in those crimes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to Meerza Houssein Khan.

August 22, 1877.

UNDER the instructions of Lord Derby, I addressed your Highness on the 30th ultimo, on the subject of the outrages committed by Persian Kurds on the Christian population of Albakh in the Turkish territory, and in your reply dated August 3, you informed me that all the Persian Shekak Kurds who had crossed into Turkish territory had been brought back to the frontier with their Chief, Ahmed Agha, the son of Ali Agha, the head of that tribe in Persia, and that stringent measures had been taken for the recovery of the plundered property and the punishment of the persons by whom these acts had been committed.

Your Highness stated in the above communication that the Turkish local authorities had promised to receive and protect any Persian Shekak Kurds who might go over to Turkey, and that this proceeding had rendered it difficult for the Persian Government to punish the guilty persons of that tribe, as, if pressure were put upon them, they would at once withdraw to Turkey. But this, as a motive of action, can only be recognized to a very limited extent, for if, on this score, impunity was to be accorded to these lawless people, it would inevitably lead to every kind of atrocity and crime being committed by them.

Recent acts committed by this same tribe in the neighbourhood of Oroomiah amongst the Persian Christian population call imperatively for immediate and energetic action on the part of the Persian Government. From information which has just reached me from

Tabreez, it appears that, while the Ikbal-ed-Dowleh was receiving Ali Agha, the Chief of the Shekak tribe, with apparent cordiality at the military camp at Salmas, where a robe of honour had been conferred upon him, villages had been laid waste by the Shekak tribe in the neighbourhood of Oroomiah, and women, in many instances, violated, and that these outrages had resulted at Girdabad and Terghever in the death of eight Nestorians.

The Persian Government are well aware of the feelings of indignation which have been excited throughout Europe by similar outrages alleged to have been committed at various places in the belligerent States; and, if intelligence is now spread of acts of the above nature having been committed in Persia, while the country is in a state of peace, and the military resources of the Government in the district are more than sufficient for their repression, your Highness will readily conceive how seriously the name and interests of Persia will be compromised.

Knowing how repugnant the occurrence of such acts must be to the feelings of His Majesty the Shah, and how opposed they are to the intentions and wishes of the Persian Government, I cannot doubt that they will at once adopt the necessary measures for vindicating the authority of the Shah by the infliction of summary and adequate punishment on the perpetrators of these acts, and for affording indemnification to the sufferers.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to Meerza Houssein Khan.

August 27, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to forward your Highness herewith, for the information of the Persian Government, translation of a despatch addressed to me on the 20th August by Her Majesty's Consul-General in Tabreez, in which he describes the outrages which have recently been committed by the Persian Shekak Kurds upon the Christian inhabitants of several villages in the district of Oroomiah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Meerza Houssein Khan to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

September 2, 1877.

(Translation.)

I HAVE understood the contents of your Excellency's two notes of the 22nd and 27th of August respecting the Shekak tribe and the part which they are alleged to have taken in plundering the Armenians of Albakh, and regarding the outrages which, according to the report from the British Consulate at Tabreez, they have committed on the Armenian villages in the neighbourhood of Oroomiah.

In reply I beg to state to your Excellency most respectfully that the Persian Government, in accordance with the great endeavours which it has always made to obtain comfort and peace for all its subjects, of whatever religion they may be, and to protect them from all harm, and has never wished that the subjects of a neighbouring Power should suffer any loss through aggressive acts, and has, as your Excellency is aware, issued stringent orders to the local authorities of Azerbaijan to recover all property taken by the Shekaks from the Armenians of Albakh, and to punish the lawless offenders. Special Agents were also dispatched to the frontier to carry out these orders. They succeeded in doing so to a certain extent.

After receiving your Excellency's last two [notes] peremptory orders were also dispatched to his Excellency the Salib Divan to make all possible endeavours for the punishment of those who had committed these lawless acts, after due investigation made, and to see that full justice is done to the Armenians. Copy of this order is herewith forwarded for your Excellency's information, and no objection has ever been made nor over will be in attending to such affairs. But, I deem it necessary to bring to your Excellency's notice the dangers of this serious affair, which must also appear to be so to every Government, and I have no doubt that your Excellency will also admit the same. I alluded to them in my memorandum of the 23rd of August, wherein I state that the

Turkish authorities have distinctly promised to this very Shekak tribe, of whom all these grave complaints have been made, and whose punishment your Excellency insists upon, that if the Persian Government should bring any pressure upon them and they cross into Turkish territory they will be protected and the neighbourhood of Albakh granted for their residence. Ahmed Agha, their Chief, was openly honoured with a dress of honour and courteously treated. This is the reason of the audacity of the Shekaks.

It is therefore evident that until full pressure is brought to bear on this tribe they will not yield, and should they have any property belonging to the Armenians they will not restore it. Should the Persian Government begin to adopt forcible measures against them they will immediately repair to Turkey and be protected, like the Jaff tribe, who went over to Turkey and were kindly received and quarters granted to them on the frontier, whence they are constantly engaged day and night killing and plundering and raiding on the frontiers of Kermanshah and Kurdistan, and although the Turkish Legation has been repeatedly asked to have them removed from the frontier it has been of no avail; the Shekak tribe will also be stationed at Albakh, where they will be constantly raiding upon the frontier near Oroomiah, plundering and murdering, and all the line of frontier will be thus completely disorganized.

No Government would force one of its tribes to abandon its country and send it into the territory of a neighbouring Government, thus actually putting its own frontier into a state of continual disorganization, thus incurring a loss of subjects and revenue. If the Ottoman Legation will give official assurances through your Excellency, as the representative of a great and mediating Power, to the Persian Government that the Shekak offenders will not be allowed to enter Turkish territory but expelled from there, and that Ahmed Agha, who is now in Turkish territory, will be given up, and that they (the Turkish authorities) will abstain from protecting the Shekak tribe, the Persian Government is prepared immediately to adopt all possible measures for their punishment.

It is evident to your Excellency that until such assurances are given and the Shekak tribe loses all hopes of protection from the Turkish authorities, all steps taken by the Persian Government will be valueless, for the Shekaks will immediately seek refuge in Turkish territory, and be beyond all control of the Persian authorities.

Inclosure 4 in No. 22.

Meerza Houssein Khan to the Deputy Governor of Azerbaijan.

August 30, 1877.

(Translation.)

THE British Legation having sent to this department a translation of a Report received from the English Consul, relative to the outrages, plunder, and bloodshed committed by the Shekak tribe in the neighbourhood of Oroomiah, and stating that there is no more safety for the lives and property of the Mahommedan and Armenian peasantry, owing to the acts of murder, &c., which occur in (spite of) the proximity of the military camp. The said translation, copy of which is herewith inclosed for your Excellency's information, was laid before His Majesty the Shah, and I am unable to describe to you the painful and profound impression which it has created upon his mind, for the Persian Government went to all the expense of forming a camp at Deryshk, under the belief that it would be of use and sufficient to defend the frontier and protect the interior of the country, but it now appears that it has been useless, even for the punishment of a few lawless Shekaks and for keeping them in awe. The British Consul distinctly writes that the camp of 8,000 men has been fruitless. You are fully aware of the evil results of such a state of affairs. The sooner you take measures for putting a stop to such a state of affairs, for the restitution of people's property, and the punishment of these lawless men, the better, so that I may know what I am to write in reply to the British Legation. Why should the Shekak tribe dare to commit such acts? You state that Ahmed Agha and others were enticed to Turkish territory to join in the holy war, and if they have been guilty of any misdemeanour it was at the instigation and order of the Turkish chiefs, and you could do nothing in Turkish territory, but these proceedings, which are said to have occured within Persian territory, leave no room for any doubt or reflection. The plundered property must be restored immediately and the culprits punished.

No. 23.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 16.)

Tabreez, September 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 2 dated the 28th of July last, in which your Lordship has been pleased to express your entire approval of the action taken by me to protect the Nestorian Christians from massacre by the Koords and of the advice I gave to my Turkish colleague regarding frontier matters, as reported in my despatches Nos. 7, 8, and 9 to your Lordship's office.

Your Lordship also informs me that you have issued instructions to Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople and Tehran, with the object of averting this seemingly impending danger from the Christians, and acquaints me with the projected mission for the same purpose of Mr. Hormuzd Rassam, who will visit the disturbed districts and report upon their present state.

I beg to express my grateful acknowledgments for your Lordship's kind approval of my conduct, which has afforded me encouragement at a time of some anxiety; and I have now the honour to inclose copies of three despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, reporting the contents of an official communication made by my French colleague to his Excellency the Duc Decazes, and read by the former to me, respecting Koordish outrages upon the Persian and Turkish frontiers; the preparation by these lawless tribes of fresh excesses at Oroomiah, and the transmission of Turkish troops from Baghdad to the Albakh district, for the protection of the Christian subjects of the Porte.

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that the local agent of the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs has this day sent me a message to say that the Government of His Majesty the Shah, more especially with reference to recent occurrences at Oroomiah —reported in inclosure 2 of this despatch—have sent peremptory orders to the authorities of this province to put a stop at once to the marauding incursions of the Shekak and other Koords, and to take effectual measures for the safety of the lives and property of the Christian inhabitants. The Agent further added that when he had an opportunity of seeing me he would enter into a more detailed explanation of the instructions which his Royal Highness the Valy Ahd and the Deputy Governor of Azerbaijan have received on this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Consul Abbott to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Confidential.)

Tabreez, August 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 26th ultimo, inclosing copy of a letter addressed by you to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the danger to which the Christians are exposed on both sides of the frontier from the lawlessness of the Koords, more especially with reference to recent outrages perpetrated by Persian Koords of the Shekak tribe, by which the Christian subjects of the Porte in the district of Albakh have been sufferers; and your Excellency calls upon the Persian Government to put a stop to these reprehensible acts, to punish the guilty parties, and to effect restitution of the plundered property.

Your Excellency will perceive, by the inclosed copy of a despatch addressed by me to the Earl of Derby, that the authorities of this province have shown a readiness to repair the evils thus inflicted upon the Christians, by alleviating their present wants, and in my despatch of the 26th ultimo I reported to you that a portion of the booty had been recovered.

The question of bringing back the Koords who had entered Turkish territory, and of punishing them for these acts of violence, has been engaging the attention of the Tabreez Government; and, as I am aware that it is not an easy matter for Persia to do either the one or the other, although, I believe, she has expressed her intention of effecting both, I thought it would be but fair to give her a reasonable time to mature her plans in this respect.

There was reason to apprehend that any act of rashness on the part of Persia might

defeat the object it is so desirable to attain—the tranquillity of the two frontiers, and the welfare of their inhabitants.

The fact that one of the principal offenders was said to be still in Ottoman territory, with a considerable band of Persian Koords, and that Turkey would not be unmindful of any services he may have rendered to her cause, was another feature in the case not to be lost sight of.

Turkey, flushed with victory, would not be in a yielding frame of mind. It cannot be supposed that she views with indifference the presence of the Persian force concentrated at Chemen Diryshk, and a formal demand made by Persia to the Porte to deliver up this Koordish Chief for punishment would probably be met by her with a flat refusal.

But, although the Azerbaijan authorities are justified in acting with caution, and the Commander of the Persian army at Chemen Diryshk, in avoiding a course of action which might, at the present crisis of the struggle between Turkey and Russia, create complications for the Government of the Shah, these considerations would not apply to that Government when they have to deal with their refractory subjects in their own dominions.

The Persian Government will, it is hoped, be able to give a satisfactory explanation of the motive of the Ikbal-ed-Dowleh in receiving Ali Agha, Chief of the Shekak tribe, with such apparent cordiality at the camp. There can be no doubt that such was the case, and that a robe of honour was presented to this Chief.

During an interview I had yesterday with my French colleague, M. Emérat, he read to me a despatch which he had just addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting recent Koordish outrages upon the Persian and Turkish frontiers.

With reference to the devastations committed in the Albakh district, M. Emérat reports to his Excellency that a very small portion of the plundered property has been recovered: that the sacred vessels and ornaments of the Church and Convent of St. Bartholomew have been sold by Koords at publication in Persian territory, and with the cognizance of the Persian authorities, and that the presence of the Persian army at Chemen Diryshk has completely failed to operate as a check upon Koordish aggressions. He also states that, since the occurrences at Albakh, villages have been laid waste in the neighbourhood of Oroomiah; but, although I have made searching inquiries on this subject, I have been unable as yet to ascertain that any renewed acts of violence have taken place.

In his report to the French Foreign Office, M. Emérat especially dwells upon the weakness of the Persian Government, and their apparent inability or unwillingness to restrain the excesses of their nomad subjects; and, drawing his conclusions from the favourable reception one of the principal Koordish Chiefs has encountered at the hands of the Commander-in-chief of the Persian army in Azerbaijan, he stated that he did not anticipate the projected visit of the Deputy-Governor of that province to the Persian camp would be attended with beneficial results.

I do not see any reason to alter the views I ventured to express to your Excellency in my despatch of the 26th ultimo, respecting the difficulty of absolving both Persia and Turkey from their share of blame in the present instance. Any misunderstanding between the two frontiers will be aggravated by the existence of the struggle now at issue between Turkey and Russia, and will be in consequence more difficult of adjustment.

The Persian authorities in this province would do well to prevent a recurrence of these Koordish excesses, and to restore a feeling of security amongst the inhabitants, but it would be unwise on their part to attempt to attain that object by assuming an attitude which Turkey might interpret in a hostile sense, and of which Russia would not be slow to take advantage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Consul Abbott to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

Tabreez, August 20, 1877.

Sir,

I HAD the honour this day to send your Excellency the following telegram:

"Report in despatch of 14th instant confirmed. Fresh Koordish outrages at Germiabad and Terghower, resulted in death of eight Nestorians."

In connection with the above, I regret to state that the Oroomiah district has been the scene of renewed Koordish depredations.

The village of Geerdabad, inhabited largely by Armenians, was attacked by a band of Koords, supposed to be Shekaks. The inhabitants offered resistance, and during the fray one of the assailants lost his life. To avenge his death the Koords returned to this village and killed an Armenian.

A nephew of Ali Agha Shekak headed a party of Koords of that tribe and made a descent upon several Nestorian villages at Terghewer. The villagers attempted to defend themselves, and the result was that eight of them were killed and others badly wounded. A deputation of Nestorians from Terghewer afterwards waited upon the American missionaries at Oroomiah to complain of these outrages, which occurred, as far as I can ascertain, towards the close of last month.

A large amount of plunder, consisting of horses, sheep, horned cattle, and household goods of every description, belonging to the Christians of the Albakh district, have been sold at public auction by Koords and Mussulman inhabitants of Oroomiah at Dizza, Kalounjee, Enzel, Balloun, and other villages. More booty has been deposited in these same localities ready for sale. Sacred vessels and ornaments, the property of the Church and Convent of St. Bartholemew, some of which are said to be of precious metal and of considerable value, have been disposed of in the same manner. My informant was not himself an eye-witness to the sale of the church property; this was reported to him by a person present at the time, but he saw silver antique coins belonging to the convent being offered for sale.

It is with feelings of regret that I have also to report to your Excellency that I have received intelligence of twelve Christian women who were captured by the Koords at Albakh having been conveyed to Oroomiah and secreted in villages of that district.

The Christian refugees at Selmas have, it is true, been well received by the Persian authorities, and relief, as stated in my previous despatches, has been afforded to them; but the accounts which have reached my French colleague as well as myself warrant the assumption that a very small portion of the plundered property has been restored to them; that the mission of Koolee Khan and Lutfullah Khan to the frontier failed to produce beneficial results, and that the conduct pursued by the Ikbal-ed-Dowlah towards Ali Agha Shekak was a tacit admission on the part of Persia either of her impotence to keep her tribes in order, or of her unwillingness, for motives of her own, to do so.

Armenian fugitives from Albakh still continue to arrive at Selmas. They state that since the devastation of the former district between 300 and 400 of its inhabitants are missing; but I am inclined to think these numbers have been much overstated, and that many of the people have resorted to places of concealment, hoping eventually to be able to return to their homes.

There is a daily increasing insecurity to life and property at Oroomiah. The Governor of that district is at the camp at Chemen Diryshk, where the utility of his presence is less apparent than it would be at his seat of Government, and Mirza Ali Khan Sertib is acting as his deputy.

Motives of policy, rather than culpable negligence, may be adduced on the part of the Azerbaijan authorities as a plea for any delay which may occur in bringing back and punishing the Koords who entered Turkish territory; but strict impartiality equally demands, on the other hand, that these recent outrages should be pointed out as deserving of the highest reprobation. They happened in Persia: Persian Koords were the offenders, and of the same tribe as those who so recently ravaged the Albakh district, and whilst His Majesty's subjects were thus undergoing pillage and slaughter, a Persian army of 8,000 men was stationed near Selmas, without any apparently definite object.

I have received the preceding information from a Nestorian convert to Protestantism, for many years in the service of the American missionaries at Oroomiah. On his way thence to Tabreez, he traversed Selmas and the Persian camp, and I have no reason to doubt the truth of his statements, which corroborate the intelligence previously communicated to me by my French colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 23.

Consul Abbott to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

Tabreez, August 30, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Consul-General informs me that the Porte has sent two infantry regiments from Baghdad to the Albakh district to protect the Christian inhabitants from Koordish depredations; and in confiding to me his opinion that the mission of Koolee Khan and Lutfullah Khan to the frontier had benefited nobody but themselves, he said it might be advisable that Nazym Effendi, designated by the Pasha of Van, and Mirza Mehdee Khan, the Persian Delegate for Frontier Affairs, should meet for conference at Albakh; but that the Deputy Governor of Azerbaijan objected to this course, although he had brought it under his notice, on the plea that the Turkish authorities were too much occupied with more important matters to be able to give their attention to a question of this kind.

My colleague repeated his former assertion that the sole perpetrators of the Albakh outrages were Persian Kurds of the Shekak tribe, and added that this was not the first time they had devastated Christian villages in Ottoman territory. He was ready to admit that, in crossing the frontier, they had responded to the summons of their religious Chief, invoking their aid in "the holy war" against Russia, but denied that the Pasha of Van had placed their services in requisition. His Excellency had, on the contrary, expressed great indignation at their proceedings, affirming that they had not proved a help but a source of embarrassment to the Turkish cause.

Particular stress was laid by the Turkish Consul upon the fact that the bulk of the plundered property had been brought to and sold in Persian territory by these same Shekak Kurds, instead of being restored to their Christian owners of Turkish nationality; and in reply to my inquiry whether he thought the Ottoman authorities would be disposed to give up culpable Persian Kurds supposed to be still on Turkish soil to the Persian Government for punishment, he said that the Porte might decline to comply with such a request, on the ground that the retention of these offenders in Turkey would facilitate the efforts of the authorities to discover any booty which might be secreted on that side of the frontier; but he thought that the Christians would have had some hope of obtaining justice, if the Tabreez Government had promptly arrested the Chief of the Shekak tribe, instead of receiving him with tokens of cordiality at the camp.

I then observed to my Turkish colleague that I felt sure Her Majesty's Government would view with satisfaction any combined measures adopted and carried out in a friendly spirit by the Porte and Persia, and resulting in the relief from Koordish depredations of the Christian inhabitants of the Albakh or other contiguous frontier districts, but that the simple application of remedies to specific cases of suffering would not be sufficient. Measures taken for the protection of the Christians, here or elsewhere, from treatment which the people and Governments of all high-minded and civilized States held in execration, would be incomplete, unless they acted not only as remedies in the present, but as preventives in the future. England had not been, nor would she be, silent under these circumstances. She would also be no "respecter of persons," but continue to hold up such misdeeds to universal reprobation, and to stigmatize their perpetrators, whether Mohammedan or Christian, with the infamy which would attach to them. In the Senate, in the press, through her Representatives at foreign Courts, and her Ministers of State, who participated in the councils of the Sovereign, and executed her commands, the voice of England had been heard in distinct tones on the side of humanity and justice. It was the echo of the voice of a Sovereign under whose Imperial sway millions of Mohammedans as well as Christians dwelt in security and peace; it expressed the sentiments of a Royal heart able to beat with sympathy for all these subjects alike.

With regard to the expediency or otherwise of a Turkish and Persian delegate meeting for conference at Albakh, I remarked to my colleague that this appeared to be a question the discussion of which at Tabreez was out of place, and that if the Representative of the Porte at Tehran was of opinion that such a measure would tend to promote a friendly understanding between his Government and that of Persia upon existing frontier difficulties, as well as conduce to the welfare of the sufferers by these recent Koordish outrages, he would, doubtless, not be behindhand in proposing its adoption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

No. 24.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 59. Political.)

Trebizond, September 14, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 57 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter which I receive this moment from Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet on the subject of the Caucasian emigrants now at Samsoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 24.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

(Extrait.)

Trebizond, September 12, 1877.

AVANT hier ayant appris que trois femmes (Abazes) avaient été arrachées avec leurs enfants à leurs maris, et renfermées d'abord dans un bain, puis plus tard dans une maison habitée par une famille Turque, par la raison que les mères respectives de ces femmes, interrogées sur leur religion par l'autorité, avaient déclaré qu'elles étaient Musulmanes, j'ai cru devoir vous adresser ce télégramme :—

"Trois femmes Abazes mariées à des Chrétiens, se déclarant Chrétiennes, sont tenues depuis plusieurs jours séparées de leurs maris, parceque leurs mères étaient Musulmanes. On exige pour les laisser libres que leurs maris se déclarent Musulmans."

Ces derniers appartiennent à la religion Grecque et l'un d'eux est un ancien habitant de Trebizonde qui était fixé depuis longues années à Soukoum Kalé. Leurs femmes ont été baptisées, et ont déclaré fermement, paraît-il, vouloir rester dans la religion Grecque.

Il semble certain, qu'ainsi que cela m'a été rapporté par diverses personnes, ces femmes ont été assez mal traitées par l'autorité Turque ; il n'est pas douteux, en tous cas, qu'elles aient été privées du secours en pain qu'accorde le Gouvernement à tous les Abazes, et qu'elles aient ainsi eu à souffrir de la faim, ainsi que leurs enfants ; les maris et pères de ces derniers ayant été tous dans l'ignorance de ce fait pendant plus d'un jour, et n'ayant pu y remédier aussi promptement qu'il l'eut fallu.

On m'apprend en ce moment que l'on a supprimé la ration de pain à tous ceux qui se sont déclarés Chrétiens, et que ceux-ci sont en grand nombre, et souffrent beaucoup de cette suppression, étant pour ainsi dire dénués de toute ressource. Il paraît d'ailleurs que le pain qu'on distribue aux Abazes Musulmans, ou qui se déclarent comme tels par crainte d'être maltraités, est extrêmement mauvais et parfois immangeable.

Le nombre des Abazes venu indirectement de Soukoum est de 8,000 en chiffre rond. Les seuls provenant de Trebizonde que nous ayons, ont été apportés ces jours derniers par le "Djamik." On dit qu'ils sont au nombre de 250, bien que, d'après les écritures, ce nombre serait de 2,000. Il y en a quelques centaines encore dont je n'ai pu savoir la provenance. L'essentiel d'ailleurs pour nous c'est de savoir le nombre de ceux qui sont arrivés directement de Soukoum, et, comme je vous l'ai dit plus haut, on peut l'évaluer à 8,000.

Il est très difficile d'arriver à débrouiller à quelle catégorie de Chrétiens appartiennent ceux qui sont de cette religion. Il semble qu'il y ait quelques vieux Chrétiens, mais ils doivent être fort peu nombreux. D'après les renseignements que j'ai pu recueillir à ce sujet, il y aurait au moins quatre Mingréliens, dont un se trouverait en prison on ne sait pour quelle cause. Quant aux autres qui se déclarent Chrétiens, ils paraissent ne connaître guère que le nom de la religion Chrétienne. D'ailleurs la surveillance dont ils sont entourés, et la crainte qu'ils ont des autorités Turques, les empêchent de s'expliquer complètement à ce sujet.

On a commencé leur évacuation ; une trentaine de familles ont été déjà expédiées à Batfra, et l'on se dispose à en diriger un bon nombre d'autres sur ce point. Les moyens de transport manquent ; sans cela je crois que la plupart auraient déjà été envoyées dans l'intérieur. Il est regrettable, au point de vue de leur santé, qu'il n'ait pu encore en être ainsi : car ici ils vivent entassés dans des conditions hygiéniques fort mauvaises, et qui ne peuvent que le devenir beaucoup plus au fur et à mesure que nous approchons de la saison froide. Déjà les pluies qui tombent depuis plusieurs jours, et qui ont sensiblement refraîchi la température, ont occasionné beaucoup de maladies parmi ces gens là, maladies

dues à l'insuffisance de leurs vêtements et surtout de leur nourriture et de la mauvaise qualité de celle-ci.

Je crains bien qu'on ne leur ait rendu un fort mauvais service en les déplaçant de leur pays. Du reste, il semble qu'un grand nombre d'entre eux n'ont pas émigré volontairement, et ceux qui ne sont pas de ce nombre pensaient qu'ils pourraient reporter avec eux une partie de leurs biens, notamment leurs bestiaux. Or 200 têtes de bétail à peine ont pu être apportées, d'après les renseignements qui m'ont été fournis à ce sujet.

No. 25.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 60. Political.)

Trebizond, September 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the sick Circassian immigrants, &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, September 15, 1877.

Sir,

A WEEK ago Dr. Dika, a Professor at the School of Medicine at Constantinople, arrived here by special order of the Sultan to attend the sick immigrants, and resumed immediately his duties.

The Pasha told him at first that his presence was not required, he having taken all the necessary measures, and the Abazians being shipped for other places, but the Pasha is, I believe, after all glad to have his services, which, for my part, I consider far from being superfluous.

Those among the sick who can do so go and consult Dr. Dika at his lodgings, the others he attends at their houses. He has until now seen between 300 and 400 sick, and it must be remembered that more than half the emigrants have already departed from Trebizond.

An apothecary, who was ordered to follow Dr. Dika with a supply of medicines, has reached this yesterday ; the latter has in the meantime made use of the medical stores of the military hospitals.

Dr. Dika considers, I am told, that the Pasha has done all that was possible under the circumstances, in an hygienic point of view, but he expatiated most vehemently in the Committee on the quality of the bread, which he did not consider fit to be eaten, and since bread of a better quality has been served out to the emigrants.

I had heard already that the decision come to under specious motives by the Committee to continue to issue bread instead of money as ordered by the Porte had been taken in order to allow speculation, and that bread made of damaged flour was served out to the Abazians, but I was reluctant, without proofs of some kind, to bring so serious an accusation against Government officials, the head of the Municipality, &c.

However, as in consequence of the report which I understand that Dr. Dika is addressing to the proper quarter, there is ground to make an investigation, it is to be hoped that a strict inquiry will be made and condign punishment inflicted on those who may have been heartless enough not only to speculate on the misery of the wretched population which it was their duty to provide with bread, but also to have, by so doing, endangered the public health of the town, which, in consequence of their peculation, might have been infected with epidemic diseases breaking out among the Abazians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 26.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 4.*)

(No. 62. Political.)

Trebizond, September 21, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 58 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have addressed this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with respect to the Caucasian emigrants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, September 21, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that I have ascertained, through my colleague of Greece, from the master of the Hellenic steamer, that, contrary to the declaration of the Immigration Committee, Mahe. Zuleja, although not embarked in bonds, was put on board against his will, as he stated himself to the captain, who can speak Russian; that his family, consisting of his wife and four children, was embarked a few hours after him; that his youngest child died during the voyage; that on their arrival at Heraclea the Mussulmans wanted to bury him; and that on the energetic refusal of the father, the pilot of the steamer had obtained from the Governor that a priest should convey the corpse to the grave.

The Greek captain adds that the emigrants are so crowded on board (1,200 emigrants in a steamer of 950 tons), that the filth engendered is such as to endanger not only the health of the emigrants, but also that of the crew; that the sick among the former, having no adequate food, he had, moved by compassion, soup issued to them. That some emigrants had died during the voyage; and that several others had refused to land on the desert sea-shores assigned to them as residence. The Greek captain, who calls as witnesses the Turkish officers accompanying the emigrants, has entered a protest, and refused to proceed to other places than inhabited ports.

I heard of these details after the departure of the British steam-ship "Harriet Agnes," likewise engaged in carrying emigrants, the master of which made no similar statement to me. On the contrary, on my inquiring on a former voyage, he told me that no Abazians had been forced on board his steamer; that they landed wherever they liked along the coast, and that if any irregular proceeding, in connection with his vessel, was used against them he would report the case to me.

As I speak of the "Harriet Agnes," I may as well mention here that on her last voyage to Inebioli, she, requiring coals, was ordered, after an exchange of telegrams between the Governors of that town and of Sinope, to proceed to the latter place for them. The "Harriet Agnes" arrived at Sinope on the 14th instant, at 11·30, with the British flag displayed and a Turkish flag flying on the foremast, when, after a blank cannon-shot, two bullets were fired at her, and struck the sea not far from her hull. On his landing and asking the motive of this inhospitable reception, the captain was told that it had for object to ascertain what his vessel was.

I protested in the name of the captain against this proceeding, and requested the Pasha of Trebizond to take measures to prevent the recurrence of mistakes of so serious a character, which he has promised to do.

The Italian Consul has informed me that the total number of emigrants who appeared up to this evening in his office to declare that they were willing to return to their native country is 200, representing together 1,070 souls, among whom there are 14 Mussulman families, or 90 souls, but that 43 families out of the above had already been forcibly embarked for other places of Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 27.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 4.*)

(No. 63. Political.)

Trebizond, September 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I forward this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in answer to one from his Excellency, instructing me, in consequence of the German Ambassador having made representations to the Porte with respect to the Mingrelians, not to interfere further in the matter except by giving friendly and unofficial advice to the authorities, if required, to ensure kind treatment to the emigrants in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, September 22, 1877.

Sir,

HAVING had occasion to see Ibrahim Pasha yesterday afternoon, I entertained him friendly and unofficially, as requested to do by your Excellency's despatch of the 13th instant, of the Caucasian emigrants.

Your Excellency is now aware, by my communications which have reached you since that date, that, far from thinking to provide for the means of transport for taking back the Mingrelians willing to return to their country, the Pasha of Trebizond, and especially the Committee which has the upper hand in all matters concerning them, are striving to make out that there are no emigrants having similar intentions.

In order to attain this end they send them to other parts of Turkey, where all clue to them is likely to be lost. The Pasha told me that they embarked of their own free will; however they had so positively declared to me their desire to return to Russia that, although I know of open force having been used only in Zuleja's case, I cannot help thinking that the Mingrelians (without speaking of the other emigrants who inscribed themselves at the Italian Consulate) who have left Trebizond, must have yielded to a pressure of some kind.

Ibrahim Pasha keeps saying that the Mingrelians, as well as all other emigrants willing to return to their country, are free to do so; however, he not only takes no steps to find out those who nourish this desire, but he, and the Committee, thwart all their attempts to make their intentions known.

Without entering into all the details of my conversation with the Pasha, it suffices for me to say that he, the Committee, and the Abazian Chiefs, are firmly decided that not a single one of the emigrants should go back to Russia, and that they act unflinchingly to attain this end.

The authorities of Trebizond have made it a point of honour, as well as a kind of religious duty, not to yield, and are besides under the impression that, if they succeed now to escape detection, no ground for claims in the future will be left to the Russian Government.

No amount of persuasion on my part will therefore divert them from their decision: they have been trying, and have hitherto succeeded, to evade the execution of the instructions received from the Porte, and will only submit to peremptory orders admitting of no tergiversation.

I shall not fail in the meantime to give friendly and unofficial advice to the authorities, as I have done hitherto, in order to ensure, as far as possible, kind treatment to the Caucasian emigrants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 28.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 43. Political.)

Adrianople, September 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch with its inclosures, which I have to-day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the subject of executions of Bulgarians under martial law.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, September 17, 1877.

Sir,

AS your Excellency is aware, I have given my most earnest attention to the subject of the Bulgarians who have been condemned by martial law and executed in this vilayet, and I have endeavoured to keep your Excellency correctly informed on it from time to time, as far as I was enabled to do so, by telegrams, despatches, and private letters.

In conformity with the instructions contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 11th instant, I now beg to inclose a complete list of the names, with such other particulars as have been obtainable, of the persons who have undergone capital punishment in the town and district of Adrianople on the charge of having taken part in the present insurrection. It will be seen that the total number of executions has been 141 within a period of thirty-four days, from the 9th August to the 12th instant. This statement has been furnished to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis. Although the usual written "yafta" or placard was affixed to the breast of each sufferer, it has been impossible to procure detailed information as to the offences for which they were severally condemned.

I shall forward to your Excellency as soon as received such particulars as Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert may be able to obtain regarding the executions which have taken place at Philippopolis.

The punishment awarded has doubtless been severe and on a large scale; but, upon the whole, it cannot be considered out of proportion to the circumstances of the case when it is remembered that, through the effect of Russian menaces on the one hand and of Russian appeals to their cupidity and vindictive feelings on the other, nearly the whole Bulgarian population of the districts lately occupied by the hostile army rose against Ottoman rule. The large number of persons executed, therefore, affords in itself no grounds for assuming, *à priori*, that a certain proportion of them were probably innocent. Moreover, the statements of the priests who confessed the sufferers, and the admission of the Bulgarian Vicar who in many instances himself attended them in their last moments, can leave little doubt that, at least in the majority of cases, these unhappy men were really guilty of the charges brought against them, often involving violation and the murder of Mahommedan women and children. The whole of the last batch of twenty-four sufferers confessed to the Vicar that they had taken an active part in the insurrection. I may here mention that many of the Bulgarian women, fugitives from Eski-Zaghra, to whom the Adrianople British Committee affords relief, call down curses on their husbands as the authors of their misery.

At the same time there is no doubt that, as I had the honour to state in my despatch to your Excellency of the 16th ultimo, an impression has very generally prevailed here that the proceedings were too summary and sweeping. This view is shared not only by the Christian inhabitants but by many of the more liberal Mussulmans. As one of the latter remarked to me, "Nearly all the Bulgarians are compromised, and if we go on at this rate we shall have to hang the whole Bulgarian population."

It is also to be regretted, I think, that this town, which has been so tranquil and free from signs of animosity under very trying circumstances, and the Christian inhabitants of which have so liberally joined the Turks in making contributions in support of the war, should have been selected for the carrying out of most of the sentences. I have endeavoured to impress this point upon the military Commandant, Djemil Pasha, and I believe with some success, for of late there have been very few executions in the town, and the condemned are now generally sent to undergo the penalty of the law in districts in the interior where Russian emissaries are known to have been actively engaged in fomenting

troubles, as, for instance, at Demotica, Hasskioi, Djisr Mustafa Pasha, and Segbanli. Whereas the bodies were at first left hanging for a long time (the executions always take place early in the morning) they have latterly been taken down at the end of two hours, and the police are now careful to protect the bodies from insult by the relatives of the victims of the crimes committed. I may further mention that the Bulgarian vicar informs me that on the eve of executions the Government authorities have always given him notice, and have afforded him and the priesthood every facility for administering the offices of the church to the sufferers during their last moments.

Although it would have been better, in my opinion, if these executions had been far less numerous, and although, as your Excellency is aware, I exerted myself to induce the authorities to deal mercifully with those Bulgarian rebels, on the other hand it is possible that the unrelenting rigour which has been displayed in these trials may have acted as a safety-valve to popular Mussulman indignation, which might otherwise have sought a vent in indiscriminate acts of retaliation even in places distant from the scene of Bulgarian atrocities. I am inclined to believe that the military authorities, if not the Turkish Ministers themselves, were influenced by that consideration in acting with a severity which after all has not surpassed, even if it has equalled, the retribution visited upon rebels in Christian countries under less aggravating circumstances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, September 15, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a list of Bulgarians who were tried and executed under martial law in Adrianople for having joined and assisted the Russian troops in various ways against the Turkish Government between the 9th of August and 12th instant.

In the town of Adrianople there have been 81 executions by hanging within the above dates, and 61 during the same period between Mustafa-Pasha, Hafa, Dimotika, Seymen, and Husskoi.

The names of the latter are not given in the list, because the prisoners were confessed by the priests of the places of execution, and not by the Bulgarian priest of Adrianople. To obtain, therefore, their names, application should be made to those places or to the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 28.

List of Bulgarians Executed under Martial Law in Adrianople and other places, between the 9th August and 12th September, 1877.

Thursday, August 9.

1. Boïtcho Zabreo, of Kajajik, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
2. Petko Dino, of Kajajik, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
3. Konio Vulko, of Kajajik, age 45, labourer; leaves widow and 5 children.
4. Jansi Raïtcho, of Kajajik, age 28, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.

Monday, August 13.

5. Tzibo, of Kajajik, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
6. Peter, of Kajajik, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
7. Peter, of Kajajik, age 38, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
8. Petko, of Kajajik, age 45, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
9. Theodor Tchuegi, of Kajajik, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.
10. Yanko Osmanli, of Hasskoi, age 45, proprietor; leaves widow.
11. Dimitri, of Kajajik, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.

Tuesday, August 14.

12. Teno, of Karabunar, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
13. Mino, of Karabunar, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
14. Jovan, of Karabunar, age 28, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
15. Theodor, of Karabunar, age 20, labourer; single.
16. Mirtcho, of Karabunar, age 45, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
17. Gantcho, of Eski-Zaghra, age 45, forest-keeper; leaves widow and 2 children.

Thursday, August 16.

18. Sidér, of Kermenli, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
19. Gospodin, of Kermenli, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
20. Tasho, of Kermenli, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
21. Dentcho, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; single.
22. Geko, of Eski-Zaghra, age 40, shop-keeper; leaves widow and 3 children.
23. Anghel, of Meritchler, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
24. Jovan, of Kajajik, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
25. Velko, of Kermenli, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 5 children.
26. Theodor, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
27. Hristo, of Karabunar, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
28. Lothé, of Karabunar, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.
29. Lothé, of Karabunar, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
30. Mirtcho, of Kermenli, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
31. Theodor, of Karabunar, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
32. Slavé, of Kermenli, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
33. Velio, of Seymen, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
34. Koltcho Nicola, of Kermenli, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
35. Petko, of Karnobunar, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
36. Veltcho, of Kermenli, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
37. Gospodin, of Kermenli, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
38. Demir, of Hasskoi, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
39. Anghel, of Kermenli, age 28, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
40. Haggi Anden Sapongi, of Eski-Zaghra, age 45, proprietor; leaves widow and 3 children.
41. Hristodulo Papatchoff, of Eski-Zaghra, age 30, shop-keeper; leaves widow and 2 children.
42. Ivantcho Ivantchoff, of Eski-Zaghra, age 18; single.
43. Strati, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
44. Dhelo, of Hasskoi, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
45. Hristo, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
46. Dimitri, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
47. Gospodin, of Meritchler, age 32, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.

Monday, August 20.

48. Stephan Minko, of Rucovitza.
49. Thoto Tergaff, of Eski-Zaghra.
50. Joftcho Shavés, of Tchapasi.
51. Mihal Yankoff, of Kavakli.

Thursday, August 23.

52. Theodor Stoyanoff, of Eski-Zaghra; leaves widow and 5 children.
53. Poyo Dobrey, of Yeni-Zaghra; leaves widow and 3 children.
54. Jovantcho Dobrey, of Yeni-Zaghra; leaves widow and 3 children.
55. Tano Dobrey, of Yeni-Zaghra; single.
56. Dimitri Papamihalo, of Yeni-Zaghra; leaves widow and 3 children.
57. Vassil Giorghi, of Kyzanlik; leaves widow and 4 children.
58. Simeon Giorghi, of Yeni-Zaghra; leaves widow and 9 children.
59. Nedo Hristo, of Kajajik; leaves widow and 2 children.
60. Stoyan Ghentcho, of Yeni-Zaghra; leaves widow and 5 children.

Saturday, August 25.

61. Hristo Hoggi Andon, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, proprietor; leaves widow and 3 children.

62. Roussó Nicola, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 45, proprietor; leaves widow and 2 children.

Tuesday, August 28.

63. Slavé Jovantcho, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, proprietor; leaves widow and 3 children.
64. Stoyan Tanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 55, merchant; leaves widow and 3 children.
65. Athanas Bogdanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, merchant; leaves widow and 3 children.
66. Petro Bogdanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, merchant; leaves widow and 3 children.
67. Stoyan Slavoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, shop-keeper; leaves widow and 3 children.
68. Keristo Stoyanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, shop-keeper; leaves widow and 4 children; was executed at Mustafa Pasha.
69. One man, name not given, executed at Seymen.

Monday, September 3.

70. Kosta Gekoff, of Kajajik, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
71. Teno Slaves, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 28; single, shop-keeper.
72. Stoyan Peyoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, shop-keeper; leaves widow and 4 children.
73. Dimitri Stoyanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 42, shop-keeper; leaves widow and 3 children.
74. Petko Pappakostandinoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 45 (Sanduk Eminé) local Treasurer; leaves widow and 4 children.
75. Giorghi Ivantchoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 30, doctor.
7 men, names not given, executed at Mustafa Pasha.
1 " " Dimotika.

Wednesday, September 5.

90. Matteo Veltcho, of Götscherlü, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
91. Jovan Dimoff, of Götscherlü, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
92. Boltcho Dimitroff, of Götscherlü, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
93. Lato Jovanoff, of Götscherlü, age 30, workman; leaves widow and 1 child.
94. Jovan Rusefi, of Götscherlü, age 45, labourer; leaves widow and 7 children.
4 men, names not given, executed at Mustafa Pasha.
3 " " Seymen.
3 " " Hasskoi.

Friday, September 7.

6 men, names not given, executed at Hafsa.
4 " " Dimotika.
3 " " Seymen.
2 " " Hasskoi.

Wednesday, September 12.

118. Delo Mitoff, of Götscherlü, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
5 men, names not given, executed in Demotika.
7 " " Hafsa.
3 " " Seymen.
5 " " Mustafa Pasha.
3 " " Hasskoi.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, September 14, 1877.

No. 29.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 45. Political.)

Adrianople, September 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, of Philippopolis, reporting that the order for the removal of the Gueshoglus to Constantinople has not been carried out.

I deeply regret having to state that many Bulgarians continue to be executed, not in this town, but in the rural districts. Suspected persons are daily apprehended and brought to Adrianople or Philippopolis, and, if found guilty by the court martials, are sent to the district towns and villages to undergo their penalty. I beg to inclose a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, with its inclosures, relative to eighteen further executions which have taken place in this sandjak from the 15th to the 17th instant.

Although the Vali, Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, seems to be opposed to these wholesale hangings, there are no signs as yet of any abatement of them. They are exciting general abhorrence, and appear likely to defeat the object they are meant to serve, in that they tend to excite feelings of disaffection, to say nothing of the discredit into which they will bring the Turkish cause abroad.

With reference to the case of Yovan Voigtmann, mentioned in Mr. Dupuis' despatch, I find on inquiry that he is not a German subject, nor has he a Russian passport, but a Turkish "tezkéré," or travelling permit, which describes him as an Ottoman subject. He was arrested at Uskup, and brought here a few days ago, and, having declared before the court martial that he was a Russian subject, and had given up his Russian passport to the police authorities at Salonica, it has been decided to send him to Salonica, in order that the case may be examined there, as the authorities find no ground of suspicion against him beyond the account he gives of the way in which he obtained his Turkish passport. He served for some time on the Salonica Railway, and has very good credentials from his employers. I have made particular inquiries on this subject, because the report has got abroad that the authorities were wilfully persecuting a Russian subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, September 18, 1877.

Sir,

I REGRET to inform you that, notwithstanding further stringent orders from the Vali of Adrianople to the Governor of Philippopoli, received yesterday, instructing the latter to forward Messrs. J. Gueshoglou to Constantinople, those gentlemen are still kept under arrest here.

On receipt of the orders above-mentioned, the Mutessarif endeavoured to carry them out, but was prevented by Rifaat Pasha, Ibrahim Pasha's *locum tenens*, who refused to allow the Gueshoglous to be removed, stating that they must remain here, unless he (Rifaat Pasha) received direct instructions from his military superiors regarding them. Rifaat Pasha further caused them to be placed under stricter arrest last night, since when, I am informed, an exchange of telegrams between his Excellency and Suleiman Pasha has taken place on the subject of the Gueshoglous, but I am ignorant of its tenor.

I telegraphed the substance of the above facts to Her Majesty's Ambassador this morning, and the Mutessarif informs me that he has also telegraphed to the Vali, stating his inability, in face of Rifaat Pasha's opposition, to execute his instructions in this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, September 22, 1877.

Sir,

SINCE writing you on the 15th instant, inclosing a list of persons executed under martial law in Adrianople and the district towns, I have the honour to hand you herewith a further list of executions by hanging which have taken place from that date to the 17th instant.

Although it cannot be denied that the Turkish authorities have every right to make searching inquiries into the movements and doings of the Bulgarians, and of securing and arresting as many persons as they may think proper and necessary to carry on those investigations and to punish the guilty, still it does not seem that the court-martial has at all relaxed in severity, as the public was led to believe when Ahmed Vefyk Pasha assumed the Governor-Generalship of this province, and human nature still recoils at the numerous executions still going on.

Since the 12th instant, although no public executions have taken place in the streets of this town, prisoners are sent to the district villages, there to suffer the extreme penalty of the law.

Arrests are almost daily being made and brought in from the country, while several Bulgarian residents of Adrianople have likewise been put in prison.

Among the latter are Ivantcho Nenoff, inn-keeper; Huggi Giorgi and Stephen Giorgi, flour merchants, men known to be innocent and inoffensive; also a Bulgarian, whose name I have not heard, has been condemned to ten years' exile. A German named Johann Voightmann, is accused of being a Russian spy. I believe the sentence of this man has been communicated to the German Acting Consul.

I may here add that I am told there are upwards of 200 Bulgarians now under trial before the court-martial, of whom, it is said, only about one-tenth may escape punishment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

List of Bulgarians Executed under Martial Law between the 15th and 17th September, 1877.

Saturday, September 15.

13. MEN, names not given, executed in district towns of Adrianople.

14. Kostandi Ghorkoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and six children.

Monday, September 17.

15. Christo Beltcho, of Hermanly, age 35, tailor; leaves widow and four children; was executed at Hafsa.

16. Giorghi Peyo, of Eski-Zaghra, age 40, shop-keeper; leaves widow and three children; was executed at Hafsa.

17. Dobray Stoyanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and six children; was executed in Demotika.

18. Jovan Stoyanoff, of Eski-Zaghra, age 50, shop-keeper; leaves widow and three children; was executed in Seymen.

19. Dimitri Vassilef, of Eski-Zaghra, age 35, shop-keeper; leaves widow and two children; was executed in Mustafa Pasha.

20. Jovantcho Dobroff, of Eski-Zaghra, age 40, shop-keeper; leaves widow and two children.

21. Bontcho Slavé, of Eski-Zaghra, age 35, shop-keeper.

22. Kasab Kolio, of Eski-Zaghra, butcher (this man was executed on the 12th September, but his name was not given).

Four men, names not given, were conveyed for execution to the district towns.

Twenty-six in all.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS, *Vice-Consul.*

Adrianople, September 22, 1877.

No. 30.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 46. Political.) *Adrianople, September 22, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the copy of a statement given to me in writing by Sir Reginald Beauchamp, who has lately been travelling in the Balkan districts accompanied by Mr. Walpole. It refers to the massacre in cold blood, by Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, of the Bulgarian inhabitants of the mixed village of Oktchilar, in the Caza of Kyzanlik.

This deed was the more unjustifiable and cruel since the unfortunate victims had, it appears, protected their Turkish neighbours with the most exemplary courage against the Bulgarian insurgents during the late Russian invasion.

I have communicated a translation of Sir Reginald's statement to Ahmed Vefyk Pasha. Since his Excellency's appointment as Vali, the military authorities have taken some preventive measures against the excesses of these irregular troops, and have disarmed and imprisoned some forty-five of them. I also hear that Suleiman Pasha has given stringent orders to his divisional commanders to deal with the utmost severity with these marauders. It is very much to be desired that these orders may not remain a dead letter, and that some striking examples will at length be made of those who are guilty of shedding the blood of inoffensive Bulgarians. By so acting, the military authorities will shut the mouths of those who at present are able, with great show of reason, to accuse the Porte of being one-sided in their punishment of offenders against the laws of the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Statement by Sir R. Beauchamp.

ON August 27, Mr. Walpole and myself visited the village of Oktchilar, which we heard was inhabited by Mahommedans and Bulgarians who were living peaceably together. On entering the village we were taken to a Bulgarian house, and were hospitably entertained by the owner. Before long we were surrounded by a mixed crowd of Mussulmans and Bulgarians. On inquiring, through our interpreter, how it happened that their village was inhabited while all the other villages around were deserted or burnt, they told us that when the revolted Bulgarians arrived at the village, the Bulgarian inhabitants told the Mussulmans not to be afraid, that they had always been good friends, and that they would act together now. They then told the insurgents that they meant to offer resistance and fight, if necessary. Hearing this, the insurgents left. The story was fully endorsed by the Mussulmans present, who were apparently most grateful for what had happened, and said they had always lived together like brothers. It appeared that Nedelko, the chief of the Bulgarians, and Zano his son, were the most active in taking these steps. Before starting, our interpreter was taken aside and requested to ask us, if possible, to procure a guard for them from head-quarters, as they were caused some annoyance by Bashi-Bazouks, who came and took fowls, &c., for which they did not pay, and were afraid to go any distance from the village, as a shepherd had been killed not long before. On our return to camp we told Captain Fife what had happened, and asked him, if an opportunity occurred, to ask Suleiman Pasha to send a guard. This we heard afterwards had been done.

On September 3, we saw some flocks passing by our encampment. Our interpreter told us afterwards that he had heard these came from Oktchilar, and that the Bulgarian inhabitants had been killed by Bashi-Bazouks.

On September 14, on our way to Philippopolis, we determined to visit Oktchilar to hear the truth of what had been told us. On arriving at the village, our first question was, "Where is our Bulgarian friend who entertained us?" They answered, that all the Bulgarian inhabitants had been killed. We were taken to a Mahommedan house, and by degrees made out that eleven days ago some Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians appeared early in the morning and wanted to kill and plunder the Bulgarians. On this the guard (composed of Bashi-Bazouks) and the Mussulman inhabitants remonstrated, but the latter were told they had better separate their cattle from the Bulgarians' cattle

and not to interfere, unless they wished to share the same fate. When asked what authority they had, the Circassians replied, "None." A council was now held in the chief Bulgarian house among the Circassians and the Bashi-Bazouk guard, and it was agreed that the latter should receive part of the plunder. It seems that the Bulgarians, or the greater part of them, were then driven out to a neighbouring hill and killed in cold blood. When we had heard this, we went to the Bulgarian quarter of the village, which we found thoroughly sacked and partly burnt. We also came across a Bulgarian old woman, who confirmed the latter part of the story, and told us she only escaped by hiding with two little children. All her other relations had perished. When compelled by hunger she threw herself on the mercy of a Mussulman with whom she and her husband had been intimate. Next morning at daybreak about ten women and children came to our house and begged us to do what we could for them and get them away to Philippopolis, if possible, as they were in danger of their lives, and slaves of the Mahommedans in whose houses they were. They said that their arabas and oxen had been taken by the Mahommedans, also their cattle and flocks distributed among the villagers, which the Mahommedans acknowledged to be true, and said they did not see why they should not have them, since their owners were dead. On closer inquiry, we found that there were more women and children in the Mahommedan houses; so, going round with the chief of the village, Hadji Suleiman, and a Colonel of Bashi-Bazouks, who had been sent to guard this district, we found fifty women and children, all of whom were most anxious to get away. A paper was then given us, guaranteeing the safety of these fifty, and signed by two of the principal men, whom we told would have to suffer if anything happened to them.

On asking Hadji Suleiman (the Chief) why he did not do something to protect the Bulgarians, he told us he was away when the massacre occurred, having gone to see the Kaimakam of the district on business, and that the other villagers were threatened with the same fate as the Bulgarians if they interfered.

(Signed) REGINALD P. BEAUCHAMP.

Adrianople, September 19, 1877.

No. 31.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 63. Political.) *Canea, Crete, September 21, 1877.*

My Lord,

INCLOSED I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation in an abridged form of the memorandum addressed to me, as well as to my colleagues, by the Christians who have been holding an open-air meeting in Apokorona.

It first sets forth what they consider to be some of the defects in the Organic Law, and the manner in which certain of its clauses have been infringed, from both which they seek to trace the decay of prosperity in Crete and the general discontent of the Christian element of the population. Their dissatisfaction with the existing state of things led them, through their representatives in the General Assembly, to propose certain changes in the Organic Law, which have not met with the approval of the Porte, and it states that this indifference to their demands finally induced them to convene the present camp meeting for the purpose of manifesting in an unmistakeable manner that they were in earnest in urging their claims on the Government. The memorial concludes by invoking the assistance of the great Christian Powers on their behalf, in the hope that an improved Charter might be granted them by the Porte, which should be further guaranteed by the Powers.

While some of their grievances are real, others I apprehend are imaginary, or at least exaggerated. I am persuaded that the principal source of misgovernment and consequent discontent must be traced to the evil choice of the subordinate functionaries, and particularly of the Christian functionaries. This might be remedied by making all posts under the rank of Mutessarif Pasha elective, the right of veto being reserved to the Porte. It has hitherto been too generally the practice to appoint as petty Governors, and to other places of trust, those Christians who by their subserviency to the Government have forfeited the esteem of their fellow-Christians. Were the power of thus rewarding their ignoble services taken away, the base arts of the spy and informer would be in less demand, and the local functionaries would largely gain in independence of character.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Petition addressed to Consuls in Canea.

(Translation.)

Sir,

AS all the world knows, administrative and judicial abuses and the ruinous system of collecting taxes brought about the insurrection of 1866. The result of that struggle was the granting of the Organic Law. But this law is only a reproduction of the règlement on the system of vilayets with the following additions—the acknowledging of Greek as the official language, the reduction of the tax on spirits, tobacco, and salt to the tenth part, and the granting of part of the revenue for the development of public works, commerce, and agriculture.

The regulations affecting the administration and judicial systems of the island are not equitable, because the Ottomans, who are only a fourth part of the Christians, have the right of electing the same number of administrative and judicial functionaries as the Christians.

By this system of election, coupled with the right of the Government to name the Chiefs of the Administrative and Judicial Departments, who are mostly Ottomans without education, judicial and administrative authority is concentrated in the hands of the Ottomans, who form the minority.

It would be tedious to enumerate and prove by facts the room for abuses which this system allows to the fanaticism of the Ottomans, where the religion, the honour, and the property of Christians are concerned; it is enough to say that a Christian very rarely obtains justice from an Ottoman adversary.

With regard to that part of the Règlement which refers to the finances and to the improvement of the island, it cannot be denied that if it was applied faithfully and sincerely it would produce good results, but unfortunately it has been violated from the very first in its most essential features. In some parts of the country tithes were even collected for the year 1866. Owing to these causes many inhabitants migrated to foreign countries, and others who were disposed to return were prevented doing so, and remain to this day aliens from their native land.

The law which fixed the amount of taxes once for all has also been infringed by the introduction of a few insignificant taxes, and by an additional 2½ per cent. of tithes.

The promises relating to the outlay of funds in public works, and the improvement of the country, have been almost entirely repudiated, agriculture and industry having consequently languished; while the establishment of an agricultural bank has served rather the interests of Ottomans, under whose direction it is conducted, than of the farmers, for whose benefit it was supposed to be founded.

Trade, far from being encouraged, has been ruined, owing to the Government setting class against class, by reviving the claims for old standing debts, which has resulted in the destruction of credit, an evil still further augmented by the introduction of paper money.

Against such violations of the Organic Law the yearly General Assemblies have repeatedly addressed complaints to the Government, to which it has always shown indifference, while the publication of the Iradé, ordering the restitution of the additional tithe of 2½ per cent. was due to foreign intervention and not to the prayer of the Assembly, but neither was restitution made as ordered.

In consequence, therefore, of such an unsatisfactory state of affairs, caused principally by the unjust distribution of electoral rights, and by the appointment of Governors-General, who are always Ottomans, military men, and ignorant both of the local language and of civil administration, the Christian people of Crete felt themselves bound, in order to insure progress and prosperity, to ask, through the medium of its Representatives in the General Assembly, certain changes in the Organic Law, based on principles of equality and immutability.

The Sublime Porte granted them permission to discuss the desired reforms with Reouf Pasha, the then Governor-General, who acknowledged their justice; and, promising their acceptance within twenty-one days, he prorogued the Assembly, pledging his word to convoke it again as soon as the answer to their petition should be received from Constantinople. The reply was at length brought by the Commissioner Kadri Bey, but was negative, the Sublime Porte justifying its refusal by alleging that, as the Règlement concerns Christians and Mussulmans, it cannot be changed to the advantage of one part and the detriment of the other.

The local Government published the reply of the Porte, but it did not convoke the

Assembly according to promise, and hence the lawful elections of the officials of the Administrative and Judicial Departments were not held, causing a relaxation of judicial energy.

Six months afterwards the Constitution was proclaimed at Constantinople, and Crete was invited to send two Deputies to the Ottoman Parliament, one from each community, no regard being had to the relative numbers of the population. Instead of their election being entrusted to the people, they were confided to the Administrative Councils, who refused to elect, alleging that it was not within their competence. The elections were finally carried out by the Ottoman Councillors only, and the Christian Deputy elected refused to take his seat, seeing he was not elected by his own community. The Christians sent in written declarations to the Consulates of the European Powers and to the local authorities, protesting against the election, the sending of the Deputy, and the assimilation of the island with the unprivileged provinces of the Empire, refusing thus to be embraced within the Ottoman Constitution, because the Règlement is thereby annulled with its most sacred privileges, especially that of the language, which would no longer be considered official, no less than the privilege of its national appellation, which it will not forget or forsake for any other whatever.

When the Assembly again came together, about four months ago, it was natural that, in view of the general maladministration, it should insist on reiterating its demands for a reform of the Règlement, and that it should not acknowledge the assimilation of the island to the rest of the Empire as intended by the Constitution. The petition of the Assembly conceived in this spirit was forwarded to Constantinople, and the reply was again in the negative, the Porte requiring instead the presence in the capital of five Christians and five Ottomans in order to give explanations.

The invitation for an equal number of Christians and Ottomans to appear showed that the intentions of the Government were not sincere, since the question to be discussed regarded only the demands of the Christians, to which the Ottomans are always opposed, seeing that they wish to preserve their privileged position, and to exercise the rights of conquerors over their Christian fellow-citizens.

On account, therefore, of this inequality, and not having the authority to place in the hands of five individuals only the destinies of the entire Christian population, especially as the motive of the invitation was not explained, the Christians refused to elect the five representatives, but hastened to request by telegraph, through a Petition to the Sultan, that the Government should send a Commission to Crete knowing the native language, but though three months have since elapsed, the request has been unheeded.

This indifference of the Porte to all our demands has convinced the Christians that the Sublime Porte is not disposed to grant anything to further the progress and prosperity of the island—a conviction which forces them to take the present extreme step, and to raise their voice for their rights and for the improvement of their present position, which is desperate and insupportable.

You will observe, Sir, in what spirit our Petition to the Governor-General is conceived, and you will likewise observe that this proceeding of ours is not undertaken for an evil purpose; but it must be understood that our conduct will be regulated by the future course of the Government, and in case it should use violent measures against us, we could not but resist violence and unjust attack.

Such being the case, we confidently believe, Sir, that the events in our country are of a nature to attract the attention of the great Christian Powers, and to claim their benevolent efforts on behalf of the Christians.

Only through the intervention of the Great Powers is it possible, on the one hand, to prevent the repetition of horrible and lamentable events of which Crete has so often been the theatre, and, on the other, to secure the benefits of civilization.

The Cretan question is sufficiently known to the Great Christian Powers, as it has so often appeared on the political stage; it is also known to them what imperfect solutions have hitherto been sought to be applied to the question, solutions which have only resulted in sacrifice and destruction to both Christian and Turk.

It would be worthy of the Great Powers, and of the civilization they represent, that through their intervention and guarantee a Constitution should be granted to this unfortunate island adapted to its wants—a Constitution which would ensure its prosperity and the cessation of disturbances and insurrections.

Wherefore, we invoke the humanity of the European Powers, in the hope that our expressed wish for the solution of the Cretan question will be taken into consideration, regard being had to all the surrounding circumstances.

Hoping, Sir, that you also will use your kind efforts for the attainment of the just

demands of the Christian people; we beg that you will kindly transmit our present petition to the Government which you so worthily represent here.

Done and signed in the open air, in a meeting of the Christian people in Klema, in Apokorona.

August 7th, 1877.

(Follow 2,800 signatures.)

No. 32.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 18. Most Confidential.)

Bucharest, September 23, 1877.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have received a telegram stating that, owing to a slight indisposition, I was compelled to postpone my return to the Imperial head-quarters, which have now moved back to Gorni-Studen.

I hope to be able to start in a day or two, and will inform your Lordship of my departure by telegraph.

A few days ago I called on Prince Gortchakow, whom I found in very low spirits, caused by the unfavourable turn events have taken in Bulgaria.

His Highness told me that he was forced to wait patiently until his time for action should arrive, but at the same time appeared to despair of any prospects of peace until some great victory should place Russia in a position to demand suitable conditions from the Porte.

Referring to the question of the destruction of Turkish fortresses, his Highness observed that when the Russians shall have taken Rustchuk and Silistria, they will blow up the fortifications of those strongholds, which would terminate the question, at any rate as far as these two fortresses are concerned.

The Prince must have forgotten that the works which render Rustchuk formidable are of the same character as those which Osman Pasha has so skilfully erected round Plevna, and that, being mere earthworks, the Turks could, in the event of their destruction, easily rebuild them in a very short space of time.

Rustchuk and Silistria being, however, still in the hands of the Turks, and there being apparently very little chance of their being taken this year, it appears somewhat premature to talk of their destruction.

Prince Gortchakow spoke in a most excited manner about the Slav Committees, which he said had done, and still continue to do, incredible harm.

"I can assure you of one thing," said the Prince, "that my first act after the conclusion of peace will be to do away with the Slav Committees and everything connected with them."

Baron Jomini, whom I saw afterwards, seemed, if possible, still more cast down than the Chancellor, and took a most gloomy view of the prospects of his country, which, he said, was being literally ruined by the imbecility of the Russian commanders.

He blamed the Minister of War for having placed so small a force at the disposal of the Grand Duke Nicholas, and confirmed what I had already heard as to General Miliutine having, before the commencement of the war, refused to mobilize more than 250,000 men for the invasion of Turkey.

It appears, according to Baron Jomini, that last year, when the question of war first arose and the Grand Duke Nicholas was summoned to Livadia by the Emperor, His Imperial Highness stated to His Majesty, in the presence of General Miliutine, that he would answer for the successful invasion of Turkey if an army of 500,000 men were placed at his command.

To this the War Minister replied that the difficulty of invading Turkey consisted more in the transport and provisioning of troops than in actual fighting, and that a compact little army of 250,000 men would be of more use to the Grand Duke than a larger force, the maintenance and transport of which would hamper the movements of the Russian Commander.

Baron Jomini justly remarked that if it was considered imprudent to enter Turkish territory with more than 250,000 men, it would have been easy, in anticipation of possible need of reinforcements, to mobilize an extra 100,000 men, to be kept in reserve at Kischeneff.

Baron Jomini was very bitter in his remarks concerning General Ignatiew and Prince Tcherkasski, and said that it was impossible to understand how the Emperor could listen to a man like Ignatiew, "qui est Ignatieffiste avant tout," and to people who are willing to sacrifice the welfare of their nation to their own personal ambition and interests.

According to Baron Jomini, it would be impossible for the Emperor to return to his country before having achieved some great success, such as the capture of Plevna, which would enable him to do so under some slight halo of glory.

"Were he to return to Russia now," said Baron Jomini, "il y aurait un soulèvement dans le pays."

Baron Jomini believes that the present war will lead to the establishment of something approaching to a Constitution in Russia, and that the people will, after the experience of this campaign, claim the right to have some voice in the government of the country.

There is no doubt in my mind that those very people who did their utmost to induce the Emperor to embark in this war, and who are now clamouring so loudly against the manner in which it is conducted, are the same who will, at its conclusion, cry out most energetically for a Constitution. Indeed I believe that their chief object in pushing the Government into war was the conviction that such a measure would eventually lead to a constitutional form of government.

I remember some time before the declaration of war asking an educated Russian of the middle class what good he and his party expected to derive from a Russo-Turkish war, at the same time pointing out to him the ruin which such a conflict, even if successful, must inevitably bring upon his country.

To this he replied that, as far as he and his friends were concerned, they were disgusted with the present form of government, as well as with the intriguers to whom the administration of the country was entrusted, and that they desired a war, however disastrous it might be, in order to bring about that revolution of which Russia stood in so much need.

"It is not for the Christians of Turkey that we care," said my friend, "but we use them as a means to an end, and if by exciting the religious fanaticism of the peasants in their favour we can force the Government into war, our object will be attained.

"With regard to the result of the contest we care little.

"Indeed, the more disastrous the war to Russia, and the deeper she gets into the mire, the more sure are we to obtain the end we have in view, namely, a Constitution."

From the conversations I have had with Baron Jomini, I have every reason to think that what my informant then said was correct.

General Ignatiew has left head-quarters and returned to Russia, and it would appear that at last he is in disgrace.

I chanced to be in the yard of the hotel when he arrived at Bucharest, and he then told me that he had suffered a severe relapse of fever, which had compelled him to leave Bulgaria.

The same evening he called to take leave of me, and forgetting the former version of his story, stated that the cause of his leaving head-quarters was the serious illness of his mother-in-law.

He told me that the morning of his departure from Gorni-Studen, the Emperor had sent for him in order that they might settle together "les deux affaires scabreuses qui restent."

The first, said the General, related to the navigation of the Danube, and he had persuaded his Imperial Master to consent to the taking up of the obstructions laid down at the mouth of that river, on the condition that each of the Great Powers should send two gun-boats to prevent the Turks from taking advantage of their removal.

The second "affaire scabreuse" concerned Servia, and it had been decided to throw cold water on the intention of that Principality to join in the contest, although it was prepared to place 100,000 men in the field.

I am informed by Prince Ghika, the Roumanian General attached to the Emperor of Russia, and who has just returned for a few days to Bucharest, that it is believed at head quarters that General Ignatiew's dismissal is to be attributed to the wish of His Majesty to prove to his people that he no longer listens to the advice of the diplomatist who has so grossly misinformed him.

The removal of General Ignatiew is not to be regretted, for, as I have already reported, the harm which he did when in favour was incalculable.

Prince Ghika also expressed his belief that the Roumanian army would be unable to keep the field more than a fortnight longer, as the war funds are entirely exhausted; but it is a fact that the Roumanian Government has addressed a circular to the provincial

authorities begging them to solicit public subscriptions for the purchase of arms and munitions of war.

The statement of Prince Ghika is, perhaps, exaggerated, but there can be no doubt that the maintenance of a Roumanian army on a war footing presents almost insuperable difficulties, and it is hard to suppose that Russia, being unable to pay her present debt to the Roumanian Railway Companies, will be in a position to take upon herself the expenses of the Roumanian army in the field.

Nor does there appear to be any wish on the part of the Roumanians to continue this war, and even the enthusiasm created by their first success at the Grivitsa redoubt has apparently died out.

Yesterday when the three Turkish guns captured in that work were paraded through the streets of Bucharest, the Sunday crowd looked listlessly on, and not a single cheer was heard.

The Russian guards are concentrating at Gorni-Studen, where they will probably remain ready to be thrown to either flank when their services are required.

Rain has set in at Bucharest, and the weather seems entirely broken.

This will materially affect the arrival of the Russian reinforcements, and will create great havoc among the sick and wounded.

At Nateshti there is a hospital, or, rather, there are hospital sheds, capable of holding some 1,500 men; but I am told that at the present moment there are no less than 7,000 wounded at that station.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRED. WELLESLEY.

No. 33.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1106. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 22, 1877.

My Lord,

M. CHRISTICH, the Servian Agent at the Porte, called upon me this morning to inform me that he had just received fresh assurances from M. Ristich that Servia was not engaged in making preparations to attack Turkey, and that the reports published by the newspapers of troops and artillery having been sent to the frontiers were unfounded. Such being the case, M. Christich observed he could not understand why the Porte felt so much mistrust of Servia, and seemed disposed to take hostile measures against her.

I asked M. Christich whether he had seen Server Pasha, and had conveyed these assurances to his Excellency? He replied that he had not, as he had already given similar assurances on more than one occasion, and he scarcely thought it necessary to repeat them.

I warned M. Christich that there was great irritation at the Porte, and especially on the part of the Grand Vizier, at the proceedings of Prince Milan and the Servian Government, and that I much feared that if the preparations which, notwithstanding M. Ristich's denial, were undoubtedly being made in Servia to attack Turkey were continued, the Porte might have recourse to measures which would bring the greatest calamities on Servia.

I told M. Christich that I had done my best to prevail upon the Turkish Government not to take any step which might give umbrage to Servia or menace her frontiers, but, at the same time, I could not conceal from him that the proceedings of the Servian Government were such as to justify the measures of precaution taken by the Porte, for the consequences of which Servia alone must be held responsible.

M. Christich asked me if I objected to his telegraphing what I had said to M. Ristich? I replied that he might do so, and that I thought he would be rendering a very important service to his country if he could save it from a second war with Turkey, to which, I was assured, the great majority of the Servians themselves were opposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 34.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1110. Confidential.)
Therapia, September 24, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1076 of the 14th instant, I am informed that the Italian Government is disposed to support that of Greece in resisting any attempt on the part of the Porte to interfere with the perfect freedom of the entrance to the Gulf of Arta through the passage of Prevesa, whether by night or by day; but that the Italian Minister has not as yet made any representation on the subject to the Turkish Government.

I have received a copy of the instructions purported to have been given by the Russian Government on this question ten years ago to General Ignatiew. They may be of interest to your Lordship. They were obtained, I am assured, by the Porte at St. Petersburgh; but, although coming to me from a good source, I cannot answer for their authenticity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Instructions given to General Ignatiew in 1867.

Notice sur le Droit du Royaume Hellénique à la libre entrée du Golfe d'Arta.

LA Porte ayant été informée que le Gouvernement Grec avait l'intention d'envoyer un bâtiment de guerre dans le Golfe d'Arta, fit remettre par son Représentant à Athènes une protestation éventuelle contre cette mesure, où il était dit, "que les bâtiments de guerre Hellénique se trouvaient exclus *ab antiquo* de la navigation dans le golfe susmentionné et qu'en conséquence les autorités Turques de Prévésa avaient l'ordre de repousser par la force tout bâtiment Hellénique qui s'y présenterait sous pavillon de guerre."

De fait l'accès du Golfe d'Arta n'a été interdit aux bâtiments de guerre Hellénique que pendant la guerre de 1854, et en suite d'un blocus proclamé par les Puissances Alliées en prévision du soulèvement de l'Epire. A cette seule exception près le pavillon militaire Grec a toujours pénétré dans le Golfe d'Arta sans provoquer la moindre contestation de la part de la Turquie. Actuellement encore le navire de guerre Hellénique la "Sapho" stationne dans ces eaux.

De droit les prétentions de la Turquie ne semblent pas pouvoir résister à un examen sérieux et impartial.

Depuis Grotius et Puffendorf jusqu'à Vattel, Ortolan, et Wheaton, tous les auteurs qui font autorité en matière de droit international sont d'accord pour reconnaître:—

1. Que la liberté des mers et des eaux ne peut être restreinte que par des stipulations formelles reconnues et acceptées par les Etats riverains.

2. Que les eaux fermées, telles que golfe, rade, port, &c., appartiennent à l'Etat ou aux Etats, dont elle baigne le rivage,—*mare est cujus est terra cui adjacet.* Tel est un des principes fondamentaux du droit maritime.

Or, il n'existe ni Traité ni stipulation internationale quelconque interdisant le Golfe d'Arta aux navires militaires de la Grèce. Bien au contraire. L'Article VI du Traité, conclu à Constantinople, entre la Porte et les Trois Grandes Puissances le $\frac{13}{25}$ Juillet, 1832, stipule formellement que les autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs.

La majeure partie de la côte baignée par les eaux du Golfe d'Arta appartient à la Grèce. Il en résulte par conséquent que la majeure partie des eaux de ce golfe appartient au Royaume Hellénique, qui est évidemment en droit d'y déployer son pavillon militaire. La Porte conteste ce droit, se basant sur le fait de la possession des deux pointes de terre qui forment le Détroit d'Arta.

Ce fait à lui seul ne justifierait pas encore ses prétentions.

La possession des deux rives à l'entrée d'une mer ou d'un golfe n'implique pas en faveur du possesseur le droit d'interdire l'accès de cette mer. Ce qui le prouve, c'est que chaque fois qu'il s'est agi de conférer un droit analogue on a dû recourrir à des négociations et le consigner dans des Traités spéciaux, ainsi que cela s'est fait plus d'une fois par rapport à la Mer Noire, dont l'entrée est possédée par la Turquie.

L

D'ailleurs, il ressort de l'esprit et de la lettre des Traités en vertu desquels une partie très restreinte de la rive droite du Détroit d'Arta a été cédée à la Turquie, que cette concession ayant un but spécial n'impliquant nullement le droit de fermeture qu'elle revendique.

Cette rive, connue généralement sous le nom de Punta, fut assignée à la Grèce par les Commissaires Démarcateurs des Trois Grandes Puissances dont la Porte s'était formellement engagée à accepter les décisions lors de la constitution du Royaume Hellénique.

A la Conférence de Constantinople du 21 Mai, 1832, le Reis Effendi, ainsi que cela se trouve constaté "au Protocole, parle d'un petit promontoire nommé Punta, situé en face de Prévéza, qui est très nécessaire à la Porte parce qu'il domine le canal et parceque la possession de ce point est indispensable pour protéger le passage des bâtiments Turcs dans le golfe. La cession de ce promontoire à la Grèce serait donc très préjudiciable à la Porte."

Il ne s'agissait donc que de protéger le passage des bâtiments Turcs et nullement d'interdire celui des navires Grecs.

N'est-il pas évident, d'ailleurs, que vouloir interdire aux navires militaires Helléniques l'accès d'un golfe, dont les trois-cinquièmes appartiennent à la Grèce, et où elle peut construire autant de navires de guerre que bon lui semble, serait contradictoire et logiquement inadmissible?

En accédant à la demande du Reis Effendi, les Grandes Puissances ne négligèrent pas de constater dans le texte même du Traité du 7/19 Juillet, 1832, à quelles conditions elle le faisaient.

L'Article I de ce Traité est ainsi conçu:—

Le littoral du Golfe d'Arta au nord et à l'ouest du point où la frontière en touche les eaux demeurera à l'Empire Ottoman, et le littoral de ce golfe au midi et à l'occident de la ligne est assigné à l'Etat Grec à l'exception du Port de Punta, lequel continuera à appartenir à la Porte avec un rayon de terre qui ne sera pas de moins d'une demi-heure ni de plus d'une heure.

L'Article VI porte:—

Le Port de Punta, ainsi qu'il a été dit plus haut, devant rester à la Porte pour compléter la défense de Prévéza, et pour mieux garantir la sureté de son commerce, il ne pourra se trouver qu'une garnison suffisante à l'occupation de ce poste, il s'entend que les autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs; et tous les droits de douane et autres qui seraient dûs à la Sublime Porte, dans le cas où les bâtiments relâcheraient à Punta, Prévéza, ou d'autres échelles Turques, elle ne leur demandera rien pour le passage.

La prévision minutieuse de ce texte ne laisse subsister aucun doute sur les conditions auxquelles le Port de Punta a été cédé à la Porte. Il ne s'agissait que de compléter la défense de la Forteresse de Prévéza, dont Punta n'est éloigné qu'à une demi portée de canon, et dont elle ne constitue pour ainsi dire qu'une annexe, il s'agissait encore de "garantir la sureté du commerce Ottoman," mais les réserves les plus formelles étaient stipulées en faveur de la liberté absolue de passage pour les bâtiments Grecs.

On s'efforce de soutenir que ces réserves ne concernent que la marine marchande Grecque et que le mot bâtiment n'est applicable qu'aux navires de commerce. Cette interprétation est si arbitraire qu'elle se réfute d'elle-même. Il est à peine besoin de démontrer qu'un navire militaire est aussi bien un bâtiment qu'un navire marchand.

Un document de date récente émanant de la Porte elle-même, témoigne enfin que les Ministres du Sultan envisageaient la question au même point de vue jusqu'en 1862.

La Porte ayant cru devoir adopter des mesures de surveillance à l'égard des navires naviguant dans le Golfe d'Arta pour empêcher l'introduction clandestine d'armes en Epire, elle en informa les Représentants des Puissances étrangères par une note circulaire en date du 15 Novembre, 1862, pour expliquer et justifier ces mesures exceptionnelles.

Des réclamations s'étant produites Aali Pacha informa les Représentants, par une note supplémentaire en date du 30 Novembre, 1862, "que la visite en question ne sera naturellement exercée qu'à l'égard des navires destinés pour les côtes de la Turquie seule ne se trouvait de Prévéza et dans le Golfe d'Arta."

Par conséquent, jusqu'en 1862 la Porte ne revendiquait à titre exceptionnel et provisoire que le droit de visite sur les navires en destination pour les côtes Turques et elle ne songeait même pas à interdire l'accès du Golfe d'Arta à aucune espèce de navires Grecs marchands ou militaires.

No. 35.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1114. Confidential.)

Therapia, September 24, 1877.

My Lord.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by Dr. Washburne, Principal of the Robert College, an American educational institution established on the Bosphorus. He has permitted me to send it to your Lordship, and I do so the more readily, as he is a gentleman of very large experience of Turkey and of an impartial judgment, and consequently well able to form an opinion of value upon the important question now at issue in this country.

In most, if not all, of Dr. Washburne's views I agree.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Dr. Washburne to Mr. Layard.

(Private.)

Constantinople, September 13, 1877.

My dear Mr. Layard,

AS I am going to America, to be absent for several months, I am anxious to state to you in writing my opinions on several points connected with Turkish affairs, not so much because I think my opinions of much importance to you, as that I find that they are often misunderstood or misrepresented by others.

I am not a partisan, and cannot state my views by simply causing the Russians and praising the Turks, or *vice versâ*. If I could it would be a great relief to my mind. I am sure that you sympathize with me in this feeling, and, therefore, do not hesitate to dissect the question.

1. I look upon this war and the insurrections which preceded it as unfortunate, unnecessary, and every way unjustifiable. Europe ought not to have permitted the war or encouraged the rebellions.

2. No one has a right to complain of the Turkish Government for putting down these insurrections and straining every nerve to resist the Russian invasion.

3. But the Turkish Government last year used most unjustifiable means to terrorize the Bulgarians, and has this year repeated the same on a larger scale both in Armenia and Bulgaria.

These outrages upon humanity deserve universal reprobation.

4. The evils which the people of this country have suffered since the Crimean war have not been due to Russian intrigue, although this has no doubt aggravated them. It is no reason to say, for the Sultan has himself proclaimed it, that what the people have suffered most from has been bad government—a government not only superficially but radically bad.

5. The simple defeat of Russia will not improve this Government or the condition of the people, nor, on the other hand, can any friend of the people desire the conquest of any part of Turkey by Russia, or the establishment of Principalities under her influence.

I hope that the result of the war will be neither the dismemberment of this Empire on the one hand, nor, on the other, a return to the *status quo ante bellum*. I should consider either a mis-fortune.

6. I look upon Midhat Pasha's Constitution as a delusion. I do not think there is anything to hope from it, for it fails to reach the radical defect of the Turkish Government. It leaves it, it proclaims it anew, a Mohammedan Government, with a Caliph for Sovereign and the Sheraat as its fundamental law.

I do not believe in such a Government, whether it be at Geneva, at Rome, or at Constantinople. It is doubly intolerable here, where the majority of the people are Mohammedans.

7. I see no hope for the people of Turkey until this Government is changed from a religious to a civil Government, with a civil code applying alike to all religions, with an army recruited alike from all, with executive officers chosen on account of their fitness for office, and not on account of their religion.

There is a party among the Turks in favour of separating the Caliphat from the Civil Government, but the party in office in any country is opposed to giving place to

"the outs," and this great revolution can never be accomplished except under the pressure of European intervention. I have no interest in any intervention which does not secure this result.

8. Before the Conference, which I hoped might lead to such a result, Dr. Long and I sent a memorandum to Sir Henry Elliot, which is printed in the Blue Book of last winter, page 680, which still expresses my opinion as to the details of such a reform.

No doubt the changes suggested are impracticable under the present system, as Sir Henry Elliot says, because they involve the overthrow of this system, but in themselves they are not impracticable, if Europe is ready to insist upon them.

9. I do not imagine that even this great change will secure immediate peace, prosperity, and brotherly love in this country.

The curse of this unfortunate war will follow the people of this land for many a long year, and mere political changes, however important, cannot of themselves regenerate a nation.

There must be a moral and intellectual revolution which will require years, and perhaps generations, for its development.

I hope for this change, too, though I may not live to see it; the best part of my life has been spent in working for it. The rest of it will be. I am sure that you and every true-hearted Englishman sympathise with this work, and believe that that time is not wasted which is spent in seeking to extend civilization, to elevate the moral and intellectual character of a people, to break down national and religious antipathies, to teach men to respect and love each other, to persuade them to patience and faith in God.

As I do not believe that these ends are to be gained by war or rebellion, you can understand how it is that, while I see the need of radical reform in the Government here, I have always used all my influence in favour of obedience and loyalty to the Turkish Government, and have taken no part in the crusade against the Turks.

Excuse this long letter, and believe me, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE WASHBURNE.

No. 36.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1115. Confidential.)

Therapia, September 24, 1877.

My Lord,

AS your Lordship is aware, the Porte has long felt the constraint and humiliation imposed upon Turkey by the Capitulations with foreign Powers. It must be admitted by every impartial man that however valuable and perhaps necessary these ancient Conventions may be for the protection of foreigners in the Turkish Empire, the rights which they confer upon the non-Turkish population, in consequence of the enlarged interpretation given to them by foreign Powers, form one of the greatest impediments to the development, progress, and good government of this country. They were entered into at a time when the privileges granted as special favours by various Sultans were limited to comparatively a very few individuals, and when the condition of the Turkish Empire was very different to what it now is. Extended as they have been to every European Power, they have given rise to a state of things which deprives the Porte of all jurisdiction over the large number of foreigners and strangers who are scattered over the Empire, and prevents it from exercising that control and authority over them which are essential to the proper government of every nation.

This is not, however, the time to enter upon so wide a subject as the Capitulations. I have only ventured to make the above remarks with reference to the opinion which prevails amongst all Turkish statesmen, that the Porte should avail itself of every opportunity to get rid of obligations which weigh so heavily upon it. They see European statesmen and writers of great authority declaring that the Treaties between foreign Powers and Turkey are no longer to be respected, and they have learnt by experience that those Treaties have been set aside by those who entered into them as soon as they have found it convenient to do so. They argue that if solemn engagements are thus treated by Christian and civilized States, they are entitled to deal in the same manner with the Capitulations, which are of very ancient date and applicable to a condition of things which has long since passed away.

These considerations, as your Lordship may suppose, weigh, especially at the present

time, with the Porte. I understand that the Turkish Government is determined to avail itself, if possible, of the war with Russia to take the first step towards modifying, if it cannot altogether abolish, the Capitulations as far as regards that Power. It considers that the war has put an end to all Treaties between her and Turkey, and it is resolved not to renew the Capitulations which so greatly interfere with the sovereign rights of the Sultan. Should Greece take part in the war, the Porte would, I believe, pursue the same course with respect to her.

I am informed, confidentially, that orders have been given at the Porte for the préparation of a full official statement to be submitted to the European Powers, when terms of peace come to be considered, with a view to proving that the Capitulations can no longer be maintained, and to enable the Turkish Government to produce arguments in that sense in the discussions which may take place. In the meanwhile, the Porte will probably avail itself of every opportunity to suppress, or restrict, the extensions which have been unfairly given, in their opinion, to those International Conventions for the benefit of foreigners residing in Turkey, and to assert rights of which usage rather than justice has deprived it.

Of course such intentions on the part of the Porte can only depend for their fulfilment upon the result of the war with Russia. It may be doubted whether Turkey will ever find herself in a position to struggle effectually against the bonds with which she is bound.

But, under any circumstances, it is as well that your Lordship should be made acquainted with the feeling and opinions on the subject of the Capitulations prevailing amongst the Turks, of which I have, I believe, trustworthy proof.

Server Pasha, I am informed, said a few days ago to some persons who were congratulating him on the recent Turkish victories, "We have been successful because we have been left to ourselves, and no one has interfered in our affairs. We should be equally successful in our administration if we could rid ourselves of the interference of foreigners, and if Turkey had the same freedom of action as other nations. We should become good administrators, good financiers, and good judges, as we have proved ourselves to be good soldiers. Wait a little, and you will see that I am right."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 37.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1116.)

Therapia, September 24, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two telegrams which I have received from Colonel Lennox describing the action fought on the 21st instant near Bezin Verboka.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Djuma, September 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FRIDAY the Ottoman troops attacked the Russian fortified positions south-east of Bejin Verboka. A column was directed against the Russian right, and moved along the heights south of the Vodica Cerkovna valley. Owing to the woods guns could not accompany the infantry, which, after an admirable struggle, had to retire under the fire of both arms. A central column moved rather later, and passing through Cerkovna advanced half-way up the fortified heights. They could not advance further, but maintained themselves there till dark. The right column carried Bejin Verboka and the heights to the west of it late in the day, but had eventually to retire before superior numbers. It appears from prisoners that the force of the Russians at Bejin Verboka was twelve battalions of the 26th and of the 32nd divisions, exclusive of reinforcements from the 13th corps that arrived from Koprivca during the action. The Turks occupy the same positions as before, with the exception of the left being more advanced. The conduct of the Turkish infantry throughout was beyond all praise. Only nine battalions were actually engaged.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Djuma, September 24, 1877, midnight.*

I ATTENDED interrogation of Polish prisoners this evening. Twenty Russian battalions were actually engaged on Friday, viz., 101st, 125th, 198th, 126th Regiments in their entrenchments on the right, and 102nd and 104th Regiments at Bezin Verboka. The 103rd, 1st, and 2nd Regiments were in reserve, the two latter having arrived during the action from Koprivca. In addition to these 32 battalions, there were 2 brigades of artillery, and 2 or 3 other batteries, lancers, and 2 other cavalry regiments of the 11th corps also there. One prisoner who came in this morning estimates Russian loss at 500 men. Russians remained on the defensive to induce the Turks to leave their positions. Russians have 11th, 12th, and 13th, and one division of 3rd corps, or 112 battalions, on this side of Jantra. Prisoners say the corps are up to war complement.

No. 38.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1117.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1877.*

IT has been generally reported here, and it has, I believe, been telegraphed to the European press, that Count Zichy, at a private audience of the Sultan, to which he was admitted last week, gave His Majesty to understand that Austria was prepared to mediate, or intervene, in favour of peace. Server Pasha assures me that nothing of the kind passed, and that all the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador said on the subject of the war was to express the hope of the Emperor that it would soon cease.

His Excellency's language was more friendly than it had been of late; and he observed that Austria would show her sympathy for Turkey when the time came for it. But he in no way gave the Sultan to understand that Austria was ready to offer mediation at the present time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 39.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1119.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1877.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 515 of the 13th instant, requesting me to inform your Lordship whether it is true that there are, according to Count Andrassy, so few Russian prisoners in the hands of the Turks, in consequence of the wounded being slain by the Turkish soldiers on the field of battle, I have the honour to state that I am making inquiries on the subject, but that it is not easy to get at the exact truth.

In order to obtain trustworthy information, I have addressed myself to Sir Arnold Kemball, Colonel Lennox, and Captain Fife, who have the best opportunities of ascertaining whether prisoners are made or not. I have also spoken on the matter to Server Pasha, who has promised to furnish me with a statement as to the number of Russian prisoners now in the hands of the Turkish Government.

There are, no doubt, a few in Constantinople who are, I am assured, well treated, and it is an exaggeration to say that "there are only three as yet in the hands of the Turks who were saved from a torpedo boat."

In my despatch No. 1044 of September 4, I called your Lordship's attention to the statement of Colonel Wellesley and of the "Times" correspondent with the Russian army in the Caucasus, that no quarter was given on either side. This statement has since been confirmed by a correspondent of the same newspaper with the Russian troops at the taking of Lovatz, who, in a letter inserted in that journal on the 10th instant, observes: "I saw several Moslem bodies bared on the breast in which were three or four bayonet stabs. They had been shot first and then bayoneted; some of them had their brains blown out. Consequently the bayonet wounds were superfluous"; and by the "Times" correspondent with the army of Suleiman Pasha before Shipka, who says, in a letter

published on the 13th instant, that "there was not a single Russian prisoner made nor Russian wounded man brought into the Turkish lines. There is no quarter given on either side."

From all that I have heard from those who have been with the Turkish armies in the field, and who are disposed to judge impartially, whenever Russian prisoners have fallen into the hands of the Turks, they have been invariably treated with kindness. In a ferocious contest, such as is now being waged, it is, I fear, more than probable that on the battle-field few lives are spared on either side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 40.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1120.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1877.*

SERVER PASHA informed me this afternoon that he had learnt from Photiades Bey that preparations were being again made in Greece, with the knowledge of the Hellenic Government, for sending bands of armed men across the Turkish frontiers to bring about an insurrection in the border provinces. One such band, his Excellency said, consisting of thirty men, was about to cross, or had already crossed, into Thessaly, near Larissa. He had instructed the Turkish Minister at Athens to make representations on the subject to M. Tricoupi, and to ask for explanations. In the meanwhile the Porte had ordered a vessel of war to Volo, for the protection of that place and to maintain order. Unless the explanations asked for were satisfactory, and if armed bands were thus allowed to invade Turkey by the Greek authorities, the Turkish Government would be compelled to send, without further delay, a squadron into Greek waters. His Excellency asked me whether in my opinion it would not be justified in doing so. I replied that it appeared to me of great importance that the Porte should not take any hasty action in the matter, and without having first obtained absolute proof that the bands in question were acting with the connivance or encouragement of the Hellenic Government. The Porte, I observed, should be especially careful not to furnish an excuse to Greece to accuse it of having first threatened or commenced hostilities against her.

Server Pasha said that he had learnt that there was a good deal of irritation at Athens against Her Majesty's Government, in consequence of the representations they had addressed to the Hellenic Government with respect to the intention of Greece to make war upon Turkey. Greece, his Excellency remarked, seemed to think that she enjoyed an altogether exceptional position, that she was not bound to listen to the remonstrances and advice of the protecting Powers, whose aid and protection she, however, considered herself entitled to claim to save her from the results of acts committed in defiance of them.

Mr. Sandison subsequently informed me that he had learnt at the Porte that the band to which Server Pasha referred had actually crossed the Turkish frontiers under the leadership of a certain Dimitrios, and that its object was to endeavour to penetrate into Macedonia, and to raise the Greek population in that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—Since writing this despatch I have received a copy of a telegram from Photiades Bey to the Porte, dated 21st instant, in which he states that the band under Emmanuel Dimitrios has left Euboea for Macedonia. It would appear that it is the intention of this Chief to land on some part of the Macedonian coast, and the Porte is urged to take measures accordingly, which it has done.

A. H. L.

No. 41.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1121. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 24, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a secret telegram that I have received from Colonel Lennox.

There are, no doubt, intrigues going on here against Mehemet Ali Pasha and in favour of Suleiman Pasha. The Sultan has been induced to believe that the former has been unwilling, for some reason or another, to attack the Russians and to follow up the successes that he has obtained on several occasions against them.

It has even been insinuated to him that Mehemet Ali Pasha's loyalty is to be distrusted and that he may have a secret understanding with the Russians for delivering the army under his commands into their hands. Mr. Sandison, whom I had instructed to speak to the Grand Vizier most confidentially on the subject of Colonel Lennox's telegram, informs me that his Highness showed great irritation against Mehemet Ali Pasha, and said that he had just received a letter from an Englishman in Switzerland, whose name he would not give, in which the writer described the military operations of that General as furnishing a proof that he was working in the interests of Russia.

I have conveyed a hint on the subject to Colonel Lennox, and have suggested to him that he should watch very narrowly all that is going on.

Mehemet Ali Pasha does not enjoy a very good reputation with those who know him personally. He is described to me as a very unscrupulous man. His foreign origin, although he was brought to Turkey and received into the Mussulman faith as a child, render him at the same time an object of suspicion to the Turks.

On the other hand, Suleiman Pasha is strongly supported by Mahmoud Damat Pasha's party in the Palace. His strategy and his attack on the Russian positions in the Shipka Pass, which have cost so many valuable lives, and have disabled some 10,000 or 12,000 of the Sultan's best troops, and which have been almost universally condemned, both here and in Europe, are justified and approved.

It is to be feared that the jealousies, rivalries, and intrigues which have so frequently been fatal to the interests of Turkey, may again bring disaster upon her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Cosdisza Tepe, September 22, 1877.*

MEHEMET ALI PASHA received on 20th a telegram from Seraskier, blaming him for not making more vigorous offensive movement, being told . . . . he was responsible for any disaster happening to Osman Pasha or Suleiman Pasha, from whose force it was stated that not a man will be sent. On same day telegram arrived from Palace expressing . . . . that Mehemet Ali Pasha had not made vigorous forward movement as military authorities and foreigners (?) assure the Sultan that he could. In any other country a Commander-in-chief would say that he was acting to the best of his judgment, but that if the Sovereign considered . . . . plan of . . . . could not know his difficulties. . . . . He had nothing to . . . . superseded, but that he could not conscientiously carry out plan which he believed must be dangerous. However, in Turkey, all Commanders-in-chief carry out even hint from the Palace . . . . usual.

Mehemet Ali Pasha will doubtless endeavour to advance more vigorously, and consequently more rashly, against the 11th, 13th, 12th, and part of the 2nd Corps, now on right bank of Jantra.

This morning Mehemet Ali Pasha received telegram from Vienna . . . . that the Czar had been advised from Berlin to leave only the Roumanians and a few Russian troops as a corps of observation before Plevna, and to reinforce the Jantra army by the 4th and the 9th Corps, so that they may attack Mehemet Ali Pasha. I see nothing improbable in this, as the capture of Plevna would not have half the importance of that of Rustchuk, which might be possible when Mehemet Ali Pasha's army was beaten. I think that Mehemet Ali Pasha's decision ought to be dependent on truth or falsehood of the Vienna telegram, and I consider that the fate of the Empire hangs upon his decision. If

he makes a vigorous forward movement against . . . . upwards of five corps, he will assuredly be defeated. Can you test the accuracy of the Vienna telegram? Telegram just arrived says Grand Duke Nicholas' head-quarters are being moved to Biela, and that four regiments of Guard have passed Bucharest on the way to Biela.

No. 42.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1124.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 25, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Consul Reade reporting on the present state of affairs at Rustchuk and the condition of the refugees in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Rasgrad, September 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Varna for Rasgrad and Rustchuk on Friday, the 7th instant.

On arriving at Rasgrad I found that many of the refugees between that point and the Turkish positions were returning to their villages, but also that a great many were hesitating to do so, not knowing whether they could do so safely, so as I heard that the Commander-in-chief was at Sarnsufiar, Prince Hassan's head-quarters, and only six hours distant from Rasgrad, I proceeded there and ascertained that the refugees could safely return to all the villages this side the line of Popkeui. I consequently returned to the encampments of refugees I had seen and others I had heard of, and not far from my line of road. I told them all what Mehemet Ali had assured me as to the villages that were no longer in danger, and I was glad to see that many at once began to move, and I have since heard that great numbers have returned to their villages and are getting in their crops, many of which were still uncut. Those of the villages beyond the line of Popkeui were advised to wait until the Turkish corps had advanced, and the authorities will let them know when they may move. I was glad to perceive that most of the refugees I visited did not appear so badly off as has been reported, and should the Russian army cross into Roumania on the approach of winter I hope that at any rate in most of the districts west of Shumla there will be much less suffering than was at first feared, but if the Russians pass the winter this side of Danube, then all the inhabitants of the districts occupied by them will suffer and beyond doubt require assistance.

One thing struck me very much, and that was the very little damage done to the standing crops on the line of march of the Turkish troops. Indeed I question if such could be found in any other country in Europe, and it is greatly to the credit of the army.

Having accomplished this as far as I was able I proceeded on to Rustchuk to inquire into the state of things there.

On my arrival I at once saw the Governor-General, several of the other principal authorities, and also some of the principal inhabitants, and I was glad to find that the state of affairs in general was very satisfactory, the Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians there being kept in the same state of good order by the Vali. I was told by some of the inhabitants that they had no complaints to make against them. Indeed, from what I saw myself in my strolls about the place I was struck by the good order that reigned there. I purposely went to two of the markets and was surprised to see them so well attended and supplied.

Those families who are in Rustchuk are of the poorest class, and from the cessation of all business are consequently in considerable distress already, but I fear that if during the winter they be not assisted they must starve. The want of fuel, it is feared, will be terribly felt. I urged the Governor-General to give his attention to this, and I subsequently heard that measures are being taken for bringing in supplies at once.

As regards the continuation of the bombardment by the Russians, I was informed

that Rustchuk had been fired at during five or six previous days, but that the fire was slower than before, three or four shells having been fired at intervals of about fifteen minutes from three or four batteries alone, the guns having been removed from all the others.

On the 15th instant, whilst I was there, a similar bombardment commenced about 9 o'clock and lasted till about noon. I heard of only one of the inhabitants being wounded, but none of the military.

On Tuesday the 18th two shells alone were fired by the Russians, to which the Turks did not reply.

The trains now again run up to the last station, Tchernavoda, an hour and a half distant from Rustchuk, and I am told that the Commander-in-chief has requested the inspector to run them up to Rustchuk, or as near thereto as possible.

There are four battalions and two guns under Mustafa Pasha from Rustchuk, at a place between Pyrgos and the junction of the two Lom rivers, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha's head-quarters. The Russian outposts are at the village of Metchka, an hour and a half from Mustafa Pasha. All the country between these points and Rustchuk are considered for the moment safe, and people are circulating therein quite freely.

The Civil Department of the Government, with the exception of the Vali and the Cadi, has been transferred to Shumla, and Edil Effendi has been appointed Mouavin to preside there in place of the Vali.

During the whole of my late trip I made inquiries in every direction as to any atrocities that might have been committed, but could learn of none. The Turks, however, were much incensed at the Russians having thrown a number of their dead into two wells at Karahassan-keui after the late battle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 43.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1130.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1877.*

THE Mussulman fugitives before the Russian invasion and Bulgarian cruelties who have hitherto excited the pity and sympathy of Europe are from the eastern districts of Bulgaria. Of what had passed in the west of that province little or nothing has hitherto been known, as the country had not been visited by newspaper correspondents, and no military attachés had accompanied the Turkish forces under Osman Pasha. It was only a few days ago that I learnt from Dr. Temple and Dr. Moore, two English physicians who were on their way to Orkanié to join the Turkish troops there, that at Tatar-Bazardjik, and on the road between that place and Sofia, there were thousands of fugitive women and children in the utmost misery and want, who had been driven from their villages by the Russians, or had left their homes from fear of the advancing Russian armies. They had escaped notice, being far from the observation of strangers, and nothing had consequently been done for their relief. They come chiefly from Plevna, Selvi, and Lofteha, and the surrounding country.

Mr. Gay, the enterprising correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph," who has recently arrived from Plevna, informs me that he found the country between that place and Tatar-Bazardjik covered with Mussulman fugitives in the utmost destitution and misery. He puts the number which he must have seen at 150,000. I trust that he has very much over-estimated it. He tells me that small-pox has broken out amongst them, and that he saw women and children dying by the road side. He found the Governor of Sofia greatly distressed at this state of things, but apparently powerless to remedy it.

Mr. Barrington Kennett, with some surgeons attached to an ambulance formed by the Stafford House Committee, is about to leave Constantinople for Orkanié, and he has promised to report to me upon the condition and probable number of the fugitives in the districts through which he will pass. Some stores for the relief of those at Tatar-Bazardjik have already been furnished by the Baroness Burdett Coutts' Compassionate Fund.

The amount of human suffering and the loss of life that have been caused by this unrighteous war will never be fully known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 44.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1131.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Acting Consul at Salonica, reporting the arrival of Tartar refugees from Toultcha at Cavalla and Salonica, the raid by Greek brigands on the Moslem village of Pashalee in Thessaly, and the arrival of irregular Albanian troops for the protection of the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, September 15, 1877.*

REFERRING your Excellency to my last despatch, I have now the honour to report that the "persons" mentioned in the telegram from the Porte to his Excellency the Vali have arrived at Cavalla, and 600 have been landed here. They are principally old men, women, and children, from Toultcha, Tartar emigrants, and those who have come here have been lodged temporarily in this city, until places can be found for them in the villages. Those who landed at Cavalla, and who are to go on to Drama, have been very hospitably received by the Mahommedans there, who have had pity on their miserable destitute condition.

I learn from Mr. Suter, under date the 12th instant, that, of the 40 Greek brigands from the border who attacked the village of Pashalee, 20 were captured on recrossing the frontier by the Greek police, and are lodged in the prison at Lamia. In this attack some houses in Pashalee were pillaged, and a few burnt, but the loss of life did not exceed 4, because the Christians of Maslee, a neighbouring village, went immediately to the rescue, and, by their prompt aid, saved their neighbours the Mussulmans from more serious injury.

The 1,500 irregular Albanian troops, 400 of whom are horsemen, who came from Ochrida to Tricala, will be stationed on the frontier. From 1,500 to 2,000 more are expected to come, to be distributed between Fenerce, Pharsala, and Demoko. These are volunteers, who refuse to receive any remuneration beyond an oke of bread each man, and forage for their horses per day, and are under no kind of discipline whatever. On their way from Ochrida these troops made "requisitions," and committed excesses in all the villages they passed through, and Mr. Suter says: "It may be apprehended that, as they are under no control, their lawless proceedings may involve grave consequences in the extreme border localities."

The greater part of the muskets which were sent from Constantinople have been distributed throughout the country near Larissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 45.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1132.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1877.*

M. CONDOURIOTI told me a day or two ago that he had been informed that the Porte was removing Circassian families into Macedonia with the object of settling them in that province in direct violation of the understanding with Greece that no such settlement should be made near the Greek frontier.

He was about, he said, to ask the serious attention of the Turkish Government to the matter. I asked him, first, whether he considered Macedonia a frontier province of Greece under the same condition as Thessaly and Epirus, to which I had hitherto understood she had limited her pretensions; and, secondly, whether he had satisfied himself on good authority that the refugees who had been sent to Salonica and other parts of Macedonia were really Circassians.

As regards the first point, he maintained that Macedonia was considered by his Government as coming under the same category in its relations to Greece as Thessaly and Epirus. As to the second, he said that his information came from the Greek Consul at Salonica.

The reports that I have received from Consul Barker enabled me to assure M. Condouriotis that the fugitives who had been sent to Macedonia were not Circassians, but Tartars from the Dobrudja, described to me as peaceable, hard-working people, who had fled from their villages in consequence of the Russian invasion.

The pretensions of Greece to consider Macedonia a frontier province in the same light as Thessaly and Epirus appears to me new, and is not undeserving of notice, as indicating the future intentions of the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 46.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 1133.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 26, 1877.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 415 of yesterday, I have the honour to inclose copy of a memorandum made by Mr. Sandison of the note addressed by Server Pasha to M. Condouriotis, with regard to the Turkish subject who had been protected by the Greek Consul in Crete, and enabled by that official to join the revolutionary committee in the island with compromising papers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Memorandum of Note addressed by Server Pasha to M. Condouriotti, September 24, 1877.

IL y a quelque temps un Crétois nommé Jouni Massanki débarquait à la Canée, venant de Syra muni d'un passeport Hellénique. Cet individu, convaincu d'être détenteur de divers papiers compromettants, est allé se réfugier au Consulat de Grèce à la Canée.

Son Excellence Sami Pasha s'est adressé alors à M. Logotheti pour demander la remise de Massanki entre les mains de l'autorité locale; mais cet Agent s'y est refusé en contestant la qualité d'Ottoman du prévenu. Vainement a-t-on constaté que Massanki, né à Lacos de parents sujets Ottomans, n'avait jamais cessé d'appartenir au même titre que les autres membres de sa famille à sa nationalité d'originaire; que parti en 1866 pour Athènes muni d'un passeport Ottoman, il rentrait au bout de cinq ans dans son pays toujours comme sujet Ottoman et qu'il repartait en 1872 pour la Grèce, sans qu'il eut jamais été question d'un changement de nationalité quelconque. Vainement a-t-on fait observer à M. Logotheti que la prétention de Massanki, d'ailleurs si peu conforme à la loi sur la nationalité Ottomane, ne saurait en aucune façon se justifier par un passeport que son détenteur n'était pas parvenu à se procurer qu'en trompant la bonne foi de la Légation Hellénique à Paris, M. le Consul a persisté à vouloir garder l'individu en question, qu'il a fini par laisser aller rejoindre le comité réuni à Klimaduki, et cela malgré les réserves formulées par le Gouverneur-Général en prévision du cas où l'accusé viendrait à disparaître.

La Légation est trop juste pour hésiter à reconnaître toute la gravité de ce qui précède. M. Logotheti n'a pu qu'obéir à des sentiments peu en harmonie avec ceux de son Gouvernement, en soustrayant un sujet Ottoman aux poursuites de ses autorités légitimes et le faisant disparaître sous des conditions aggravantes.

L'impression que cet incident a laissée sur les autorités Impériales est des plus pénibles. Aujourd'hui M. Logotheti se trouve placé vis-à-vis d'elles dans une position telle que son maintien à la Canée est devenu impossible.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères vient par conséquent prier la Légation de Sa Majesté Hellénique de vouloir bien aviser au rappel immédiat d'un Agent si oublieux des obligations qui incombent au Consul d'une Puissance amie et voisine.

No. 47.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Octobre, 1877.*

JE vous envoie le récit d'un épisode sanglant dont le bourg d'Izor, du district d'Orkhanié, a été le théâtre, et qui est relaté par Kiazim Bey, Commandant du régiment Fathié. C'est une preuve de plus des procédés cruels dont use l'ennemi envers les habitants Musulmans inoffensifs.

Un escadron de Cosaques et 150 insurgés Bulgares ont assailli le bourg d'Izor, qui était dépourvu de troupes, et l'ont livré aux flammes, après avoir pillé toutes les habitations. Puis, ils ont attaché les malheureux habitants, les uns aux chariots chargés de butin, les autres à la queue des chevaux et les ont emmenés en leur faisant souffrir les traitements les plus cruels. Ces malheureux ont été providentiellement délivrés par un escadron du régiment Fathié, qui, mis en éveil par la lueur de l'incendie, s'est dirigé en toute hâte dans la direction d'Izor, et a été assez heureux pour rencontrer les cavaliers Cosaques et les Bulgares, les battre complètement et sauver d'une mort certaine les malheureux prisonniers.

No. 48.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 804.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 3, 1877.*

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI, the Roumanian Agent, who returned to Paris yesterday, called upon me to-day, and placed in my hands the inclosed copy of a circular despatch from the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Bucharest to the Roumanian Diplomatic Agents.

M. Callimaki Cattargi requested me to forward this document to Her Majesty's Government, and said that he intended to communicate it this afternoon to the Duc Decazes.

He recapitulated and dwelt upon its contents. He said that the Turks entirely disregarded the Geneva Convention to which Turkey was a party; that they not only butchered the wounded, but that they prevented the members of the Red Cross from fulfilling their duties on the field of battle, and that they fired upon them and disregarded the white flag.

He added that the Roumanian Government felt themselves obliged to bring this matter before the Powers who had signed the Geneva Convention, and he wished to make, through me, a particular appeal to Her Majesty's Government, whose influence at Constantinople he ventured to hope might be exercised with favourable effect towards putting a stop to such barbarities.

I replied that I would forward the document to your Lordship by this evening's messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Circular addressed to the Diplomatic Agents of Roumania abroad.

M. l'Agent, *Bucarest, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Septembre, 1877.*

DES le début de la guerre, qui a pour théâtre actuel la Bulgarie, et longtemps avant que l'armée Roumaine ne passe dans cette province, je vous ai annoncé, afin d'être communiqué au Cabinet Français, que les autorités militaires Turques d'au delà du Danube avaient résolu de n'accorder aux blessés et aux prisonniers Roumains qui tomberaient en leur pouvoir ni grâce ni merci.

Le Ministère de Constantinople s'est empressé alors de contester le fait, et, de mon côté, j'ai cru devoir laisser aux événements le soin de démentir, sur ce point, les déclarations formelles de la Sublime Porte.

Malheureusement, ma prévision n'a été que trop justifiée.

Je vous ai déjà initié, M. l'Agent, par une dépêche en date du , aux

procédés inhumains et illégaux qu'emploient les autorités militaires Turcs à Plevna envers nos blessés et nos ambulances.

Mais chaque jour des faits plus en plus révoltantes, viennent augmenter l'indignation générale. Partageant l'horreur qu'ils inspirent à tous ceux qui en sont témoins, je ne saurais me dispenser de recourir, sans le moindre retard, à la seule chance de redressement possible: celle de faire connaître aux Puissances signataires de la Convention de Genève, les infractions barbares dont les chefs et les soldats Turcs se rendent chaque jour coupables.

Sur le champ de bataille à Grivitza, à la date du 7/8 Septembre, le Major Nicolas Joan et le Capitaine Nostose, de l'armée Roumaine, trop gravement blessés pour pouvoir se retirer en lieu sûr, ont été littéralement hachés en pièces par des Bachi-Bouzouks, qui arrivèrent après la retraite des troupes combattantes.

Du reste, les rares blessés Roumains qui ont pu s'évader furtivement des champs de bataille, attestent unanimement qu'ils ont vu des bandes de pillards et de massacreurs s'abattre, une fois la lutte terminée, sur les morts pour les dépouiller et les mutiler, sur les blessés pour les achever par d'horribles tortures.

Il n'est donc plus permis de douter que les actes de ce genre sont, non seulement tolérés, mais même autorisés par les chefs de l'armée Turque.

Ce qui le prouve une fois de plus c'est que l'armée Ottomane, au mépris de toutes les dispositions humanitaires, légalement consenties par les Etats Européens, empêche expressément le personnel de la Croix Rouge d'exercer son office sur les champs de bataille. Réservant, en quelque sorte, nos blessés comme une proie assurée pour ses massacreurs autorisés, elle tire intentionnellement sur le drapeau blanc et, comme dans nos ambulances, deux brancardiers ont déjà été victimes de leur courage et de leur dévouement, force a été de suspendre, en vue des positions Turques, tout office du personnel sanitaire, qui y est exposé, sous défense, à une perte certaine.

Il résulte de là que les cadavres de nos morts gisent jusqu'à ce jour privés de sépultures.

Ce sont là des faits, vus et constatés par plusieurs des attachés militaires étrangers et qui nous rejettent dans la plus odieuse barbarie. Il est impossible que les Etats, qui ont adhéré à la Convention de Genève, se bornent à prendre simplement acte de procédés aussi iniques.

En évoquant les sentiments élevés d'humanité et de respect humain qu'a toujours manifestés le Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, M. l'Agent, je nourris l'espérance de voir les autorités Turques rentrer bientôt, grâce à la pression des Puissances étrangères, dans la voie des Traités, qu'elles oublient volontairement.

Je ne saurais assez insister sur la révoltante réalité des actes que je viens de relater ci-dessus; elle mériterait, à mon avis, une constatation formelle par une Commission Internationale, et le Gouvernement Roumain est le premier à solliciter une enquête sérieuse sur les agissements coupables des autorités militaires de la Turquie.

Veuillez donc bien, dans ce but, M. l'Agent, donner lecture à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la présente note, dont vous aurez l'obligeance de lui remettre une copie.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) COGALNICEANO.

No. 49.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 4.)

Belgrade, October 3, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople:—

"Mobilization as yet only partial; about 20,000 men called out. Some friends of the Ministry pretend that their game is to gain time till the spring, and to extort money and promises from Russia. This may be so, but so dangerous a trick may bring on hostilities."

No. 50.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 237. Confidential.)

Athens, September 25, 1877.

My Lord,

I OMITTED to mention to your Lordship in my despatch No. 234 of yesterday's date that, on M. Tricoupi complaining to me of the maladministration of the province of Thessaly, I remarked that it was not until Greece had assumed her present attitude that a state of siege had been proclaimed in that province.

I should also have informed your Lordship that I observed to him that the language M. Coundouriotis was reported to have held at Constantinople had doubtless done much to alarm the Porte.

M. Tricoupi did not concur in my opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 51.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 239.)

Athens, September 26, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish Minister at this Court informed me this morning that he has been assured by the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs that a steamer belonging to the Greek Government has been sent in pursuit of Dimitrion's band. His Excellency also informed me that M. Tricoupi had notified to him the passage of a band into Epirus with a view of his informing the Ottoman authorities, and stating at the same time that the conduct of the Greek authorities on the frontier was to be inquired into as to the passage of the band in question.

Server Pasha has conveyed to the Greek Government through the Turkish Minister here, in a note dated the 20th instant, satisfaction at assurances given by the Greek Government as to the control they state they are exercising over the Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 52.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 240. Confidential.)

Athens, September 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at this Court, informed me to-day that he had received assurances from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, that a Greek steamer had been ordered to pursue a band which has left Greece by sea, with a view of reaching Macedonia, under the leadership of a certain Dimitrion.

Photiades Bey also stated to me that M. Tricoupi had notified to him the passage of a band into Epirus, headed by a man named Scaltzoyanni, and had begged him to apprise the Ottoman authorities in that province of the fact, stating at the same time that the conduct of the Greek authorities on the frontier was to be subjected to inquiry, with a view of discovering how the band in question had been allowed to escape from Greece.

I remarked to Photiades Bey that the Greek Government, considering the manner in which M. Tricoupi had acted, could not be charged with complicity in these matters, which he admitted; but he said he thought the authorities on the frontier had been guilty of culpable negligence in not preventing the passage of Scaltzoyanni's band.

Server Pasha, in a note dated the 20th instant, has expressed his satisfaction to Photiades Bey at assurances which have been given by the Greek Government as to the control they say they are exercising over the Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 53.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 241. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 26, 1877.*

I AM informed that M. Zimbrakaki, an officer of the rank of Major in the Greek army, has been proved by a letter which has been intercepted, to be President of a Cretan insurrectionary committee whose head-quarters are in Greece, and I understand that the Turkish Minister has pointed out to the Greek Government that the position of M. Zimbrakaki as an officer in the King's army is incompatible with that of President of a Committee of such a nature, requesting at the same time that he should be called upon to give up one or other position. It appears that the Greek Government acknowledge the justice of these remarks, but I have not heard whether M. Zimbrakaki has resigned the Presidency of the Committee. He has, however, just been appointed Director of the Military Staff School. M. Zimbrakaki is brother of the Minister for War, and his family is of Sphakiot origin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 54.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 242.)
My Lord, *Athens, September 26, 1877.*

THE "Amphitrite," the King's yacht, has lately returned from Trieste, to which port she had been sent to be cleaned.

I understand that she has brought back a considerable quantity of arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 55.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 1140.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1038 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul in Cyprus, relative to the reply of the Governor of the island to Mr. Watkins' communications of the 7th and 20th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larnaca, September 15, 1877.*

REFERRING to the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on the 21st ultimo, I beg to inform you that I have since then received from the Governor of the island a reply to my communications of the 7th and 20th August in respect to the disturbances which had lately taken place in the island.

The reply is not altogether satisfactory, as his Excellency does not admit any of the statements excepting that of the murder at Anghastina; still, I believe my representations have had the desired effect, as measures have been taken to prevent Christians from being molested.

With regard to the collective note which the Consular Agents of Limassol addressed to the Kaïmakam of that place, a copy of which was duly transmitted to you, his Excellency considers that the foreign Representatives there have no right to interfere.

Her Majesty's ship "Coquette," Lieutenant G. C. Festing commanding, called here on the 8th instant from the coast of Syria, and sailed again on the following morning for Rhodes and Besika Bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. WATKINS.

No. 56.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 1141. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1877.*

M. CHRISTICH called upon me to-day to inform me that he had telegraphed to M. Ristich the substance of my conversation with him, reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1106 of the 22nd instant. M. Ristich, he said, had replied that he was surprised that the Porte still had so much suspicion and mistrust of Servia; that it had no grounds for them, and that the measures of the Servian Government, which appeared to alarm the Porte, were only taken as a precaution in case either of the belligerents should be driven over the Servian frontier.

I asked M. Christich if he intended to give this explanation to the Porte. He answered that he should do so to Server Pasha. I observed to him that it would be a very good thing if it was accepted as satisfactory and believed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 57.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 1142.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the substance of an article published by the Turkish newspaper the "Vakit," with reference to the reports as to the intervention of Austria in favour of peace. The article, I am told, was "inspired" by Saïvet Pasha, the late Minister for Foreign Affairs. It may be of interest to your Lordship as showing the views of an influential party in Constantinople as to the conditions upon which Turkey ought to agree to a peace with Russia. As I have already informed your Lordship, I am positively assured by Server Pasha that the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador made no overtures on this subject, as stated by the writer of the article in his recent audience with the Sultan. Count Zichy states the same thing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Extract from the "Vakit" of September 26, 1877.

NOUS nous empressons de donner aujourd'hui à nos lecteurs les renseignements que nous avons recueillis au sujet de la paix.

Ces renseignements, que nous considérons comme très positifs, se résument ainsi. A la suite d'une entente survenue entre l'Autriche-Hongrie et l'Angleterre, ces deux Grandes Puissances ont cru nécessaire de sonder l'opinion des belligérants. Les démarches faites auprès de la Russie ont été, à un certain degré, favorablement accueillies par le Gouvernement du Czar.

La Turquie a répondu avec certaines réserves. Le désir du Sultan est que les bases de pacification ne puissent porter atteinte à l'indépendance et à l'intégrité de l'Empire. C'est dans ce but seul que le Gouvernement Ottoman est décidé à se défendre, dans la guerre actuelle, jusqu'à la dernière extrémité. La Sublime Porte est donc résolue, si ces deux points—c'est-à-dire, l'intégrité et l'indépendance de l'Empire—ne sont d'avance assurés, à ne pas accepter un autre mode d'arrangement et à refuser un armistice qui pourrait rester dans la suite infructueux. C'est dans ce sens que la Turquie a formulé sa réponse.

La même réponse a dû être donnée aussi à l'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie, dans la dernière audience qu'il a eue du Sultan.

Tous les amis de la paix seront reconnaissants à l'Autriche-Hongrie de ses bonnes intentions au sujet de la paix générale. Les Osmanlis qui, par leur conduite, ont affirmé leur amour pour la paix, n'en seront pas moins, sans doute, reconnaissants à l'Autriche-Hongrie. Mais il n'y a pas lieu de douter aussi que la réponse précitée du Sultan est une réponse définitive, approuvée par la grande nation Ottomane dont le sort est confié aux mains de Sa Majesté.

Si la Turquie avait l'intention de céder même une partie infime de ses droits d'intégrité et d'indépendance, se serait-elle, dès le début, jetée dans cette guerre pleine de calamités?

Les Osmanlis ne s'épouvantent pas de cette guerre; il s'agit pour eux de sauvegarder leur honneur et l'indépendance. Sur ce point leur résolution est ferme.

La continuation de la lutte est aussi nuisible à l'Autriche-Hongrie qu'à notre pays; si elle se laissait entraîner par l'Allemagne, montrant ainsi des sympathies à l'égard de la Russie, nous pouvons affirmer d'une manière certaine qu'il y aurait un grand soulèvement en Hongrie.

Pour ce qui est de l'opinion des autres Puissances de l'Europe, nous avons démontré dans nos articles précédents l'isolement de l'Allemagne et le revirement d'opinion dans la politique occidentale. Par conséquent, il est d'un intérêt général pour l'Europe que la guerre actuelle cesse sans imposer le moindre sacrifice à l'Empire Ottoman.

Les seules conditions que les médiateurs pourront poser à la Turquie concerneront la question des réformes qui, d'ailleurs, sont dès à présent assurées.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman ne se refuse pas à l'amélioration de la situation de ses sujets. S'il plaît à Dieu, aussitôt après la fin de la guerre le Gouvernement procèdera par lui-même à la prompte application des réformes, tout droit d'intervention de la part des Etats d'Europe dans cette question étant une atteinte à l'indépendance de l'Empire Ottoman. D'ailleurs, ces Etats n'ont officiellement aucun droit d'immixtion. Mais bien que le Traité de Paris confirme cela, la mauvaise interprétation qui a été faite de ce Traité a donné lieu à bien des inconvénients et à bien des maux. Les mille difficultés auxquelles nous nous heurtons aujourd'hui en sont la preuve.

No. 58.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 5.*)

(No. 531.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September 30, 1877.*

I HAD the honour to receive by post, on the evening of the 25th instant, your Lordship's despatch No. 329 of the 3rd September, instructing me to mention to the Russian Government certain reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government of acts of plunder and of cruelty committed in parts of the country occupied by the Russian forces, and which have led to retaliation on the part of the Mussulmans on their withdrawal, and more particularly to draw attention to the report of Mr. Consul Blunt, stating that the ambulance of the National Aid Society had been deliberately fired on by Russian troops when near Eski-Zaghra on the 30th of July last.

I had an interview yesterday with M. de Giers, when I read to his Excellency your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch, as also a memorandum, copy of which I have the honour to annex, giving some of the principal cases which are reported by Mr. Blunt and other English Consular and military officers, and which I have drawn up from the reports sent by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

M. de Giers expressed his deep regret at receiving this communication, which he considered to be humiliating to Russia, and he evinced great unwillingness to accept it for submission to the Emperor. He repudiated most emphatically any accusation of acts of cruelty by the Russian forces, and observed that the horrors committed by the Turks on the dead and dying were sufficient to have infuriated any troops into acts of retaliation.

I here drew his Excellency's attention to that portion of your Lordship's despatch which states that Her Majesty's Government had received with much satisfaction the statement made to them by Colonel Wellesley of his conviction that the reports of cruelties committed by the Russian troops were without foundation, and that they had given to that statement full publicity, and that Her Majesty's Government did not doubt that any different conduct on the part of his troops would be severely repressed by the Emperor himself, should it come to his knowledge. But I observed that the many authenticated

cases of barbarity and massacres which have taken place in Bulgaria appeared to have originated in the disarmament of the Mussulmans by the Russians on their entering Bulgaria, and in the placing of these arms in the hands of the Bulgarians. This act, considering the bitter hatred existing between the two confessions, and their revengeful nature, seemed to have served as an incentive to acts of fanatic fury and barbarous atrocity.

M. de Giers replied to this observation by stating that after the atrocities which the Bulgarians had previously suffered, it was necessary to give them the means of defence against their Mussulman oppressors. His Excellency further observed that no other European Government had addressed to the Imperial Government a communication of this nature, and he felt that it was humiliating for Russia to be treated in this respect on a level with Turkey.

I here again referred his Excellency to your Lordship's despatch, which expresses the confidence of Her Majesty's Government that neither the Emperor nor his Government will misunderstand their motive in instructing me to mention the principal cases,—not as all of them necessarily proving misconduct or connivance on the part of the Russian soldiery, but as calling for investigation, and as showing the direction in which precautions should be taken for the future; and I observed that the representations of Her Majesty's Government ought rather to be received in the friendly spirit in which they were addressed, and as affording the Imperial Government the requisite information for causing inquiry to be made into the cases mentioned, with a view of precautions being taken against their recurrence for the future. On a careful perusal of your Lordship's despatch I felt certain that his Excellency would view it as a friendly representation in the cause of humanity, and as dictated solely by the desire of diminishing as far as may be possible the horrors of war, for which humane object the Imperial Government has evinced at various periods the deepest interest.

I accordingly left in his Excellency's hands your Lordship's despatch and a copy of the memorandum herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 58.

Memorandum of Cases of Irregularities committed by Russians or by Bulgarians in presence of Russian Troops, read by Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers, September 29, 1877.

MR. SCARBOROUGH, who came in from the front some days ago, reports that two surgeons of the National Aid Society, Drs. Leslie and Meyrick, had given him their authority to state that the Russians deliberately fired several shells at their ambulance when near Eski-Zaghra on the 30th July. The ambulance was in a long train of bullock waggons; no troops were near them at the time, and the Society's flag, which can be seen five miles off, was flying.

Two American missionaries at Eski-Zaghra state that a Russian force, after taking possession of the town, disarmed Mussulman inhabitants and distributed their arms promiscuously amongst the Bulgarians. The latter began immediately to plunder the Turkish shops and to enter the Turkish houses. A good many Mussulmans appear to have been murdered, the Russians themselves shooting others amongst them, one a woman (to their own knowledge), on the ground that they had offered resistance. One of these gentlemen places the number thus killed at about 100, and states that if the Russians did not actively take part in the plundering they connived at it.

Captain Fife, Military Attaché at Her Majesty's Embassy, describes fearful atrocities committed by the Bulgarians between Eski-Zaghra and Kyzanlik when armed and protected by the Russians.

Mr. Consul Blunt states that these atrocities had naturally the effect of exasperating the Moslems and leading the Turkish and Circassian irregulars into savage acts of retaliation.

Vice-Consuls Calvert and Dupuis confirm these statements of massacres of Mussulmans and Jews in the presence of Russian troops.

Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis at Adrianople reports that 600 families, Christian, Jewish, and Mussulman, mostly women and children, had fled from Eski-Zaghra, which was occupied by some 500 mounted Cossacks, who, after disarming the population, established a Bulgarian local Government under a Russian officer as chief. Their first act was to condemn and execute ten Mussulmans; the day after they hanged four Turks as well as

the Mufti and Mollah, and compelled eleven respectable Mussulmans, in the custody of a Russian officer, to be spectators of these scenes. Simultaneously with these arbitrary acts it appears that the Bulgarians, with the connivance of the Russians, commenced attacking and pillaging shops and houses of the Jewish and Mussulman populations and massacred two of the former.

It is stated that during the occupation of Eski-Zaghra at least 500 Mussulmans must have perished at the hands of the Russians and Bulgarians.

Mr. Layard, in writing to Lord Derby on the 15th August, 1877, states: "I have endeavoured to obtain through Her Majesty's Consuls and the Military Attachés to the Embassy, the best and most trustworthy evidence on a subject which so deeply interests the British public. Her Majesty's Consuls and others have done their best by visiting the places in which atrocities are said to have occurred, by personally examining the wounded and by taking evidence of those who escaped, to ascertain the truth. Their reports have been forwarded to your Lordship, and they prove beyond a doubt that massacres of the Mussulman population have taken place on a large scale, and that in many places they were committed by Bulgarians with the connivance or under the protection of Russian troops."

The reports from the Military Attachés confirm those of the Consular Agents.

Colonel Lennox, on August 1, reports as follows:—"On the 27th July there was an affair near Yeni-Zagra between a regiment of Russian dragoons and some Turkish troops. After the action two Russian cavalry soldiers came to the village of Küdirbe. In the village since several days had been assembled Turkish families from the villages of Taserin and Ogendzali, as well as those of Küdirbe. The men were deprived of their arms by the Bulgars, who did not allow them to escape, and who took away their arabas and cattle. The two Russians fired on the outer door of the premises where the greater number of the Turks were, and the Bulgars broke it open with stones. The Bulgars then fired over the walls upon the men who were in the courtyard; they were encouraged by one of the priests. Later, they killed, with swords and knives, the women and children who were in the houses. They still keep possession of the young women. The Turks had only sticks, and killed one Bulgar. There were 500 persons. The four men, three women, and two children, who had arrived here, confirm the story, and say they are the only people who have escaped. The ground, they say, was covered with dead bodies, but there may be other survivors in the outhouses."

Captain Fife reports on August 16:—

"Camp at Hain-Boghaz.—Yesterday morning three Mussulman women, inhabitants of the village of Uplotarli, came into camp and reported that the male inhabitants had been massacred by the Bulgarians, two Cossacks being present; that some of the women and girls had been taken into the hills by the Bulgarians, and many had been killed, some being burned in their houses, and that this had occurred about a week since.

"I proceeded to the village, distant about 10 miles from here, and saw about 120 bodies lying together in several heaps in a wood. They were in an advanced state of decomposition; but it was evident that they were Mussulmans from their dress.

"When returning we met two women, also Mussulmans, inhabitants of the village, who confirmed the previous accounts, and stated that the men had been just employed by the Russians to construct defences at the Hain-Boghaz, and that on the completion of these works they were massacred by the Bulgarians, incited and encouraged to do so by the Cossacks."

Large numbers of perfectly authenticated cases of massacre of the Mussulman population, where the Russian forces under General Ghourko had penetrated into Roumelia, are brought forward by the above gentleman.

Vice-Consul Brophy reports, during his tour in Northern Roumelia, that the fugitive Mussulmans he met were unanimous in declaring that the Cossacks, after collecting their arms and promising them good treatment, burned their villages and carried off women and girls. Other Turkish peasants, more especially those from Pastil and Ahmedli, describe the Bulgarians of Belovos and Rhea as being armed and uniformed (sometimes wearing white coats and always flat white caps), as going to the Mussulman villages, entering many, tearing off the women's veils, forcing men and women to make the sign of the Cross, firing on the men and carrying off many of the girls.

A correspondent of an influential Berlin newspaper stated that the Russians and Bulgarians in the parts of Roumelia he had visited had committed the most horrible outrages and massacres upon the Mussulman population, sparing neither old men, women, nor children. He insists that the Russian troops were frequently parties to these atrocities. The Bulgarians he says, are more like wild beasts than men. He related things he had seen, too horrible to be described.

An official Report, addressed to Mr. Layard, says that, according to the statements of the inhabitants, a Cossack officer, named Simon, at the head of about 100 Cossacks, was established at Katchidere, near Kyzanlik. After taking away the Mussulmans' arms a massacre took place by the Bulgarians, with the connivance of the Cossacks. Young girls were stripped, and forced to embrace Christianity.

Consul Reade collected reports of peasants of Yablanow, near Rustchuk, wounded, as they state, by Russian soldiers, and gives the following list of them:—

"List of natives of Yablavlana, or Yablanow, a village six hours from Rustchuk and about four from Biela, wounded by Russian soldiers about the end of June or beginning of July, and visited by Consul Reade on the 23rd August, 1877. The village is composed of about 300 Mussulman houses and about 50 Bulgarian—

"1. Boy, Ibrahim, 7 years of age; three lance wounds on back, and one sabre wound through left thigh, the latter severe.

"2. Girl, Vaiya, aged 18; several sabre wounds on head and on right shoulder. The head wounds very severe.

"3. Woman, Fatma, aged 60; five severe sabre wounds on head and back. Still suffering much from those on head.

"4. Woman, Aisha, aged 40; four sabre wounds on head, both arms and stomach.

"Aisha's husband, Ali, and two children, were horribly massacred by soldiers before her eyes. From what she had suffered all her fellow sufferers evinced great sympathy for this woman before me.

"One very old woman, with lance wounds in several places, was suffering so much that I could not speak to her. I afterwards heard she had died soon after I left. Five others have died since they reached Rasgrad.

"I was told by these that about forty other women and children were killed outright on the spot, and about seven wounded so badly that they could not move, and must have been massacred. Many of the others managed to escape, although they were followed by Russian soldiers.

"I also saw and spoke to a man named Ali, about 50, from Girshowa, between Rasgrad and Biela, with a severe gun-shot wound right through, from back to front, about the centre, and who was shot by a Russian soldier as he was taking three horses to water. Three others were killed outright near him. They were surprised by the enemy about thirty-five days ago."

Colonel Lennox, about Eski Djuma, reports horrible accounts of massacres by Cossacks and Bulgarians, taking down many reports from eye-witnesses.

No. 59.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 426.) *Therapia, October 4, 1877, 6 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegram received at the Porte states that Moukhtar Pasha has gained an important victory over the Russians. He was attacked on three different points. The fighting lasted Tuesday and Wednesday, ending in the complete defeat of the Russians, who left about 5,000 killed on the field, and were closely pursued down to the Arpa Chai. Everything quiet at Plevna.

No. 60.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1877.*

RUSSIAN official despatch from Caucasian army, dated Kanyal, October 4, states:—"We attacked and carried, day before yesterday, Moukhtar's fortified left flank; took Mount Grand Yagny, but found small Mount Yagny unassailable; afterwards repulsed 13 battalions of Kars' garrison: our losses were, 9 officers killed, 60 wounded; 1,000 men killed, 2,000 wounded: losses of enemy as great. Yesterday, enemy again attacked vigorously, but were repulsed. We had 3 officers killed, 11 wounded; 40 men killed,

250 wounded. Losses of enemy very large. Our right wing abandons positions occupied day before yesterday from inability to provide troops with water.

No. 61.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1877, 6 P.M.*

DO you know the cause of Mehemet Ali's removal from his command? Is it due to intrigue, as you seemed to fear?

No. 62.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 576.)

Foreign Office, October 5, 1877.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 1085 of the 17th ultimo relative to the case of the Mingrelians, who are stated to have been brought to Turkey against their wish, has been received; and I have to state to your Excellency that, under the circumstances mentioned in your despatch, Her Majesty's Government approve your decision not to take any present action upon the instructions addressed to you on this subject in my despatch No. 479 of the 31st of August.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 63.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 577.)

Foreign Office, October 5, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1102 of the 20th ultimo, relative to the alleged forcible separation from their husbands by the authorities at Samsoun of three Abazian women, who were married to Christians, and themselves professed the Christian faith, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's proceedings in this matter, as reported in your aforesaid despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 64.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 578.)

Foreign Office, October 5, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1090 of the 18th ultimo, reporting the substance of the communications made to you by M. Zeimann as to the wish of the Bosnian refugees now in Austrian territory to return to their homes, provided that they could obtain from the Turkish Government guarantees for the security of their lives and property; and, in reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to Server Pasha on this subject, as well as your other proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 65.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 328. Confidential.)

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, October 5, 1877.*

COMMANDER CRISPI, President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, having expressed a desire to see me while visiting this country, called upon me by appointment at the Foreign Office this afternoon, and in the course of a long and informal conversation mentioned one or two points which it may be convenient to place on record.

Speaking of the policy of Italy at the present juncture, M. Crispi said that what the country and the Government most desired at this moment was peace and tranquillity; that an interval of continued repose was necessary for the consolidation of their internal organization, and particularly of their finances; and that any departure from their present pacific attitude would, therefore, be avoided by them to the utmost of their power. At the same time it was right to say that an attempt on the part of Austria to take advantage of the present troubles in Turkey for the purpose of obtaining an augmentation of territory would be viewed with extreme jealousy in Italy, and would give rise to a strong feeling throughout the country.

I asked M. Crispi how an acquisition by Austria of territory so remote from Italy as Bosnia could occasion apprehension, or be considered to threaten the safety of the Italian Kingdom.

M. Crispi replied that Italy was always open to attack from Austria; that the frontier was ill-defined; and that anything which tended to give Austria increased military or political strength would naturally be regarded in his country as adding to the danger of such an attack. If Austria made an acquisition of this kind, M. Crispi intimated that Italy would appeal to the other Powers for compensation; and from his remarks as to the ill-defined character of the frontier, I understood him to imply that a demand would be made for cession of territory in the direction of the Trentino; but he carefully abstained from any precise or positive statement of what would be asked or expected.

No. 66.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 6.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 26 Septembre, 1877.*

SUR la proposition des autorités Impériales du Vilayet de Janina, la Sublime Porte a provisoirement interdit l'entrée et la sortie, pendant la nuit, du Détroit de Prévésa.

Cette mesure, qui a été portée à la connaissance des Représentants des Puissances amies à Constantinople, a soulevé certaines objections de la part du Gouvernement Hellénique.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information, copies de la note que m'a adressée à ce sujet M. Coundouriotis, ainsi que la réponse que je viens de lui faire.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERVER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 66.

M. Coundouriotis to Server Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Bouyoukdéré, le* $\frac{20 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1877.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note Circulaire de votre Excellence en date du 25 Août, par laquelle vous m'informez que le Gouvernement Impérial vient d'interdire provisoirement, et jusqu'à nouvel avis, l'entrée et la sortie de la passe de Prévésa à tous navires et embarcations après le coucher du soleil.

La Légation du Roi, par ses notes réitérées, et le Gouvernement Royal à Athènes, par sa communication à Photiades Bey, en date du 29 Avril, 1867, ont démontré à la Sublime Porte l'inanité de sa prétention tendant à se constituer maîtresse du Détroit de Prévésa, par la raison qu'elle est en possession du fort de Punta, qui domine l'endroit en question. Aussi, n'ai-je pas besoin d'entrer dans de longues explications à cet égard.

Il me suffira cependant, M. le Ministre, de rappeler à votre Excellence que les droits découlant de notre qualité de Puissance riveraine du Golfe d'Arta ne sauraient nullement être infirmés par la circonstance que la Porte possède les deux pointes de terre qui forment l'entrée du détroit du Port de Prévésa. Il en est ainsi en vertu du principe généralement admis en cette matière et d'après lequel, à défaut de stipulation contraire, la possession de deux rives à l'entrée d'une mer ou d'un Golfe n'implique pas en faveur du possesseur le droit d'interdire l'accès de cette mer. Il l'est à plus forte raison par suite des conditions expresses auxquelles la cession du promontoire de Punta a été soumise par l'acte international que consacre cette cession.

En effet, c'est un des préceptes non contestés du droit international que la liberté des mers et des eaux ne peut être restreinte que par des stipulations formelles reconnues et acceptées par les Etats riverains. Quant aux eaux fermées, telles que golfes, rades, ports, elles appartiennent à l'Etat ou aux Etats dont elles baignent le rivage. Or, il n'existe aucune stipulation de nature à restreindre nos droits quant à l'accès du Golfe Ambrasique. Bien au contraire, l'Article VI du Traité de 1832 a formellement stipulé que les autorités Ottomanes n'apporteront aucun empêchement au passage des bâtiments Grecs.

Il en résulte évidemment, M. le Ministre, que la Sublime Porte ne saurait, de sa propre autorité et sans le consentement du Gouvernement du Roi, prendre des mesures portant empêchement au passage du détroit.

Après tout ce que je viens d'exposer, je crois inutile d'entrer dans de plus longs développements, et je me borne à déclarer que la notification susmentionnée de votre Excellence ne saurait avoir aucune valeur pour la Grèce, attendu qu'on ne saurait interdire l'entrée de notre propre maison, ni à nous-mêmes, ni à ceux que nous désirons y admettre.

Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, à qui copie de la note précitée de votre Excellence a été communiquée par moi, me fait savoir que le Gouvernement du Roi considère la décision prise par la Porte comme nulle et non avenue en ce qui concerne la Grèce.

Veuillez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 66.

Server Pasha to M. Coundouriotis.

Sublime Porte, le 25 Septembre, 1877.

J'AI reçu la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le $\frac{25 \text{ Août}}{7 \text{ Septembre}}$ au sujet de la mesure prise par la Sublime Porte à l'effet de suspendre durant la nuit l'accès du Détroit de Prévésa, mesure que vous considérez comme portant atteinte aux droits qui découlent pour le Gouvernement Hellénique de sa situation de Puissance riveraine du Golfe d'Arta et des stipulations de l'Acte de Londres de 1832.

Je suis convaincu, M. l'Envoyé, qu'un examen plus attentif de la question qui a éveillé les susceptibilités du Gouvernement Hellénique lui démontrera que la Sublime Porte n'a point excédé par la mesure précitée les prérogatives qui lui appartiennent comme propriétaire des deux rives du détroit.

Le Gouvernement Impérial reconnaît, comme il a toujours reconnu, le droit pour les bâtiments Grecs de franchir librement le Détroit de Prévésa, soit à l'entrée, soit à la sortie du Golfe d'Arta, ainsi qu'il a été établi par une stipulation spéciale de l'Acte de 1832; mais il constate en même temps que les Puissances Garantes, en laissant à l'Empire Ottoman la propriété du promontoire de Punta, ont pris soin de déclarer que le but de cette disposition spéciale était de permettre à la Sublime Porte de compléter la défense de Prévésa et de mieux garantir la sécurité de son commerce. Cela suppose évidemment que la possession des deux rives doit comporter l'exercice d'une certaine autorité sur le passage; autrement, la concession eût été sans objet et serait dès lors tout à fait illusoire.

Cette autorité implique et comprend un droit de police égal à celui que chaque Etat exerce dans ses propres eaux, et la Sublime Porte n'a entendu faire, et n'a fait en réalité, qu'une application naturelle et logique de cette règle, en limitant par une mesure de prudence, d'ailleurs momentanée, l'accès du détroit aux heures du jour où la surveillance peut s'exercer efficacement. Lui dénier cette faculté dans les circonstances présentes, serait, je le répète, lui enlever le seul avantage que les Puissances ont voulu lui assurer en maintenant dans le domaine de l'Empire le promontoire de Punta.

Permettez-moi d'espérer, M. l'Envoyé, que ces loyales explications suffiront pour justifier pleinement, aux yeux du Gouvernement du Roi, la mesure purement règlementaire

et de simple police que la Sublime Porte a portée à votre connaissance par sa Circulaire du 25 Août, et qui laisse absolument intact le droit de passage par le Détroit de Prévésa stipulé en faveur des bâtiments Grecs.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 67.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 245.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 28, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I saw M. Tricoupi, the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, to-day, and that he stated that the Government intended *de facto* to remain at peace, but that it was not possible for them to give formal engagements on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 68.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 246.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 28, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 239 and 240 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to state that I spoke to M. Tricoupi this afternoon about the bands reported to have left Greece under certain leaders named Dimetrion and Scoltzoyanni. M. Tricoupi told me that the Greek Government had at first believed in the existence of the band under Dimetrion, but that now that belief had turned out to be unfounded, and that with regard to Scoltzoyanni's band the Turkish authorities at Jannina not having heard of it in Epirus it was doubtful whether it had left Greece; but at any rate he said the Government were going to take severe measures against the frontier authorities, and that they were considering the propriety of removing the Nomarch and Demarch in Acarnania from their posts, which measure, he said, if carried into effect, would be a salutary warning to the authorities on the frontiers to be more vigilant for the future.

The Greek Government have every desire to remain at peace with Turkey, judging from the language held to me to-day by M. Tricoupi.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 69.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 247. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 28, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Tissot, the French Minister at this Court, informed me to-day that he had counselled the Greek Government to follow a prudent and pacific policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 70.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 6.)

(No. 427.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 6*, 1877, 6 P.M.

KEMBALL telegraphs yesterday morning that on Tuesday Russians attacked in full force and captured Great Yaghni Tepe, which was defended by only one battalion. They failed, however, against Little Yaghni Tepe, where there were six Turkish battalions, and they were defeated in attack on our rear. Russians bivouacked on the ground, but made

on attack yesterday. They seem to threaten attack to-day. Turks were completely surprised, but are now on their guard.

No. 71.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 7.)

Vienna, October 7, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAD an interview to-day with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the blockading of the Sulina channel. The Russian note accepts the proposal that the channel shall be neutralized on condition that the Porte accedes to it, and that the Powers will adopt measures to secure its being maintained by belligerents, and it is suggested that Count Andrassy should arrange with Her Majesty's Government as to measures which may be adopted for this purpose.

The Austrian messenger, who leaves on 10th instant, will take a copy of the note to London, for communication to your Lordship, and when Powers are agreed as to conditions of Russian Government, Count Andrassy proposes that telegraphic instructions may be sent to Ambassadors at Constantinople, recommending them to the acceptance of the Porte.

No. 72.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 755.) *Vienna, September 21, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Andrassy returned from Salzburg last night, and I was told to day, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, that his Excellency was much pleased with his interview with Prince Bismarck, whom he represents to entertain the same opinions with himself in regard to the war in Turkey, and as to the inexpediency of attempting at present to mediate between the belligerents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 73.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 757.) *Vienna, September 23, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Vice-Consul at Fiume reports, in a despatch which I received from him to-day, that the South Railway Company have been ordered by the Minister of War to lengthen within twenty days the sidings at the stations of the Fiume St. Peter's Railway, so as to enable the longest military trains to cross each other when proceeding in opposite directions on the line.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 74.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 762. Confidential.) *Vienna, September 23, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my report of Count Andrassy's interview with Prince Bismarck, which I forwarded to your Lordship on the 21st instant, I have now the honour to inform you that his Excellency called upon me to-day, in consequence of my having expressed a wish to see him, and confirmed the information which I had previously received, as to his satisfaction with the language held to him by the German Chancellor.

Count Andrassy said that no political importance ought to be attached to his visit to Salzburg, as he had merely availed himself of the opportunity to communicate personally with Prince Bismarck, as he would have done with your Lordship, had you been passing

so near Vienna. He had no proposals, therefore, to make to his Highness as to future arrangements in the East, nor did he expect to receive any from him. They had naturally, however, exchanged opinions on the present aspect of affairs, and he has convinced himself that Prince Bismarck has no hostile views with respect to France, and that his Highness earnestly desires the maintenance of peace in Europe, and that the war in Turkey may not be indefinitely prolonged; but, as neither of the belligerents has asked for mediation, his Highness concurred in his own opinion, that it is inexpedient at present for other Powers to intervene, as it would be impossible to find a "stand-point" or basis on which the views or pretensions of Russia and the Porte could be reconciled.

Count Andrassy said he was glad, at the same time, to be able to inform me that nothing could be more friendly and sympathetic than the manner in which Prince Bismarck had spoken of England, and that he appeared fully to appreciate the policy of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the war, and to consider them entirely justified in seeking guarantees that English interests should not be compromised by it.

As I endeavoured to ascertain Count Andrassy's own opinion respecting the probable issue of the campaign, he reminded me that he had never anticipated a rapid advance of the Russian army on Constantinople, and though he said he did not now venture to be a prophet, he apparently hopes that, if the Turkish Commanders use their opportunities wisely, the Russians cannot recover this year the ground which they have lost, and that they may not improbably be unable to remain during the winter in Bulgaria.

As I thought that the European questions connected with the Conclave, which may be shortly expected, might also have been discussed during his Excellency's conversations with Prince Bismarck, I asked whether he thought the election of a new Pope was likely to pass over quietly, but he only said in reply, that, though the Pope is not free from the infirmities of old age, His Holiness' health is good ("il se porte bien"), and it may be hoped, therefore, that Europe will be spared for the present from the troubles which might result from his death.

It would appear, however, that such troubles, in his Excellency's opinion, may be serious, as he added that he daily prayed that His Holiness' life may be prolonged.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 75.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 767.) *Vienna, September 30, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 743 of the 20th instant, I now learn that the Hungarians therein referred to appear to have intended to cross yesterday from Transylvania into Roumania with about 500 men, and to proceed to Calafat by mountain paths, in the hope that they might destroy the railway bridge there. Their intentions have, however, been frustrated by the Hungarian Government, who have seized, at several railway stations, the arms and accoutrements which were to have been used on this occasion.

The recent landing of Turkish troops opposite Silistria is believed by the newspapers to have been connected with this intended foray.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 76.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 771.) *Vienna, October 1, 1877.*

My Lord,

I WAS informed to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs that arms and ammunition, intended for the invasion of Roumania by an Hungarian free-corps, continue to be seized daily at railway stations in Austria and in Hungary, and that it would appear, therefore, that the force enrolled, of which it is said General Klapka was to have taken the command, must have been larger than was at first believed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 77.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 779. Very Confidential.)

Vienna, October 4, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 762 of the 23rd ultimo, reporting a conversation with Count Andrassy respecting his recent meeting with Prince Bismarck, I learn from other sources that his Excellency is not disposed to encourage a negotiation for the immediate restoration of peace, because, it is said, he is of opinion that a second campaign would not end more favourably for Russia than that which is about to terminate, and would establish indisputably her inability to settle the Eastern question independently of other Powers.

I have reason, however, to believe that some persons who enjoy his Excellency's confidence consider that all he can desire as evidence of the failure of Russia to deal single-handed with Turkey would be obtained if she could be brought to accept, at the termination of the present campaign, such terms of the peace as the Porte might be disposed to grant, and as would ameliorate the position of the Christian subjects of the Sultan as far as the other Great Powers might consider necessary.

Count Andrassy has generally great confidence in his own opinions, and he is inclined to take credit to himself for not having anticipated, on the outbreak of the war, a rapid advance of the Russian army on Constantinople; but I believe that, in forming his judgment on this point, he merely trusted to the natural difficulties which the country would present, and the probable shortcomings of the invaders, and was not prepared for the energetic resistance which they have met with, nor had he formed a higher estimate of the defensive resources of Turkey than the military authorities, who had reported unfavourably upon them to Her Majesty's Government. His Excellency may have, however, concluded that there was no reason why a Russian invasion of Turkey should be more successful in 1877 than in 1828, as the relative improvements in the military establishments of the two countries during the interval have been 50 or 100 per cent. greater in Turkey than in Russia; but, though this view has been justified by the event, he would do well to remember that the Russians reached Adrianople in 1829. I presume, therefore, that, as success in war depends upon many contingencies, the policy which is attributed to him is not likely to meet with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, and that they would consider it more prudent to be satisfied with such results it may be possible to obtain now than to await another campaign in the hope of securing greater ones.

On my speaking on the subject yesterday to Baron Orczy, he said that no peace which could be effected at present would be durable, and I have also heard a German diplomatist state that there is no probability of peace before next autumn, when Europe would impose it upon the belligerents.

An understanding has, therefore, apparently been come to between Prince Bismarck and Count Andrassy to leave the war to take its course for the present, the former being, perhaps, willing to give Russia a chance of restoring her military reputation, and both expecting that the belligerents will be sufficiently exhausted before the close of next year to accept any arrangements which Germany and Austria-Hungary may think fit to propose to them.

There seems, therefore, to be little probability of peace being brought about at an early date, unless it be by the action and influence of Her Majesty's Government, or by some signal success on the part of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 78.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 780.)

Vienna, October 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE asked Baron Orczy whether the grain to be stored at Turn Severin, which Mr. White reports in his despatch No. 155 of the 27th ultimo to have been contracted for by Russia, may not be intended for the use of a Russian force, which will eventually march through Servia; and his Excellency expressed in reply a most confident opinion that, even if Russia wished to do so, she could not send troops into Servia. He said also, if the alleged contracts of grain had really been made on Russian account, the grain must be intended for the use of the Servian Government, who might as well receive assistance from Russia in grain as in money, with a view to their taking part in the war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 79.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 781.)

Vienna, October 4, 1877.

My Lord,

A TELEGRAM from Cettigné, published to-day by a Vienna newspaper, states that Prince Nicholas has decided to consider this year's campaign to be closed by his occupation of the district of Banjani; and that he has stated in a letter to the Emperor of Russia that his wish to free the people of Schamnzi, Cseri, Pivo, Drobnjazi, Gasko, Rudini, Niksizi, and Banjani having been successfully accomplished, he does not intend to go beyond Banjani, but that he hopes and requests that the Emperor will cause the above-mentioned districts to be annexed to Montenegro when peace is concluded.

The writer of the telegram further observes that these moderate views of the Prince are not altogether spontaneous, but are to be attributed to a declaration of Count Andrassy, that a further advance of Montenegro in the upper Herzegovina would be inconsistent with the interests of Austria; and it appears to be believed at Cettigné that Prince Nicholas' decision will either prevent action on the part of Servia or, at all events, cause it to be deferred.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 80.

Consul St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Ragusa, September 24, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches No. 7 of the 27th ultimo and No. 10 of the 14th instant, on the passage through Austrian territory of the 16 guns and 2,000 cases of ammunition, which subsequently led to the fall of Nichsich, I have the honour to inclose an extract, with translation, from the "Avenire" of the 17th instant. This newspaper is published in Italian at Spalato in Dalmatia, whence I succeeded in obtaining a copy of the number in question, although it was sought by the local authorities to suppress its publication.

By perusing the offending article your Lordship will observe that the "Avenire" is the mouthpiece of the "autonomists," or anti-Slavonic party in Dalmatia. It has made itself so frequently conspicuous by its fearless vindication of Imperial interests, as opposed to the aims of Panslavism, that its seizure by the civil authorities, who for the most part are Slavs, has here become proverbial.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 80.

Extract from the "Avvenire" of September 17, 1877.

(Translation.)

"On the morning of the 9th instant Cattaro, an Austro-Dalmatian town—as we are taught by geography—assumed a festive appearance. The ringing of bells and the booming of mortars proclaimed that some great event had occurred to gladen the hearts of the population. Numbers of people full of wine and enthusiasm perambulated the streets in the evening, singing martial songs and at every step invoking princely names that are not to be found under the heading of Austria-Hungary in Gotha's Almanack.

"What was the meaning of all this stir? A most simple affair: the capture of Nichsich by the sixteen cannon permitted to be landed at Castelnastua by the Austrian authorities.

S

"That small nest, for which during the last two years so much blood was shed and which had endured the horrors of famine, and withstood all assaults of the enemy, had succumbed after a day's bombardment; effected by sixteen cannon of small calibre. This diminutive fort of the last century, restored in the days of Omer Pasha, could not hold out against any serious attack. It was neither a Sebastopol nor a Metz. Though it may have resembled ancient Troy in the length of its siege. In the recent French war we have seen other fortresses, classed as of the first order, hoist the white flag after six hours bombardment with field-pieces. Its garrison of 800 men, run short of provisions and ammunition, and even of water, could not have held out longer.

Nevertheless, the capitulation, at which the Russian Consul of Ragusa and a Colonel of the Austrian Staff are said to have been present, was very honourable for the besieged, whose valour and perseverance during two years well deserved all the honours of war.

Hence the reason why Cattaro, the chief town of the district of that name, in the well-governed Province of Dalmatia, vented itself in an orgy of exultation as soon as it heard the joyful news.

Many other demonstrations were in preparation for the morrow, and the civil authorities would, as is their wont, have given their sanction; but the military took fright, and, as Slavonic patriots at Cattaro do not extend their admiration for the Prince of Montenegro up to the prison doors, the contemplated rejoicings were postponed till a better opportunity.

The surrender of Nichsich, therefore, suggests two points for our consideration: firstly, the timely arrival of the cannon from Castellastua; and, secondly, the recent demonstrations at Cattaro.

We shall not deal for the present with the question of neutrality in general, or of that of Austria in particular, as the toast at Kashan now renders it superfluous; but (in view of the ideas which seem to prevail at Court and, by rebound, in the Imperial Chancery, as to the vexed question of occupying Bosnia and Herzegovina) to the fall of Nichsich, which it was necessary should, at any price, have been prevented; the fortress being nothing less than the key to Herzegovina, commanding, as it does, the important pass of the Duga, and opening, to whoever holds it, the road to Mostar.

On what grounds, therefore, can the landing of the sixteen cannon be explained? Was it by such means that the Government intended scrupulously to observe their obligations of neutrality, or do they aim at taking advantage of Turkey's embarrassments with the view to acquisition of contiguous territory? The collusion of the Austrian authorities was most incomprehensible.

But to return to the demonstration. Here also the question of neutrality crops up. Bearing in mind existing rules of international law, how could the civil authorities of Cattaro allow a fraction of the population, and that the most turbulent, to indulge in demonstrations against a friendly neighbouring State, and to utter cries most insulting, as well as threatening, to the Catholic portion of the inhabitants?

We leave it to the good sense of our readers to pronounce upon these incidents.

Such proceedings seem to indicate either great weakness or a seditious connivance on the part of the local authorities, and we are tempted to ask is Cattaro a town under the suzerainty of His Serene Highness the Prince of Montenegro?

No. 81.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 57. Political.)

Salonica, September 26, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 22nd instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting particulars of the excesses committed by the Albanian irregulars in all the Christian villages on their road to the frontiers of Greece; that the Government expect to have 50,000 men on those frontiers; and that martial law has been proclaimed at Yanina and in all Epirus, and a Christian of note arrested at Prevesa on suspicion of correspondence with Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, September 22, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the information I touched upon cursorily in my private letter of the 18th instant by last post has been fully confirmed.

Selim Bey, a Chief who has property at Debra, engaged to raise a body of 4,000 irregular Albanian volunteer troops, to be sent to the frontiers of Greece. His offer was accepted, and these men were divided into three bands of 1,500, 1,200, and 1,200, taking three different roads, but electing to pass through the richest Christian villages. The first 1,500, of whom 300 were horsemen, passed through the village Katafee-ee. Here, after having extorted what money they could by threats of murder, they pillaged all the houses and carried off all the goods of any value they could lay hands upon, even cooking utensils, loading them upon eighty mules belonging to the villagers, and some of their own horses, and sent them, accompanied by twenty of their fellows, to their own villages. They beat the Bishop of Katafee-ee and took away his silver crozier. This village is in the Caza of Servia, or Servitza-Kozan. Leaving Katafee-ee, they proceeded to levy contributions and pillage other Christian villages on their way to Tricala, who all suffered more or less.

The band of 1,200 took the road through Livadia, a very large Christian village, pillaged it, and went on to do the same to other villages on their way from Monastir to the frontier, Elassonah, &c.

The last batch of 1,200 have yet not left Debra, for we have not heard of their doings.

As the Christians did not offer any resistance (though at Livadia they were well able to defend themselves if they had not feared the consequence of punishment by the local authorities, for self defence is a crime in Turkey as in Russia), only one man was killed and two wounded.

These Albanians (Gheghas) are the most ferocious race of Albanians, and that is why they were selected to be sent against the supposed Greek invasion.

The villagers who have suffered have applied to our Vali for redress, and his Excellency has telegraphed to the different authorities in his vilayet, and to the places whither these irregulars are gone, to compel them to restore the mules and other property taken away. His orders are not likely to be obeyed, for there were fifty regulars at Livadia, with their officers, when this pillage of the houses occurred, but they looked on and did not interfere.

Speaking of these Gheghas, Mr. Vice-Consul Suter says that on their arrival at Larissa, the fame of their doings had created such alarm that all the shops in the bazaars were shut, and kept close as long as they remained there; and he adds, "their lawless, violent proceedings, under the eyes of the chief local authorities, show what excesses they will be capable of when beyond them, for the superior powers display little energy towards preventing them."

This is very true, for it is difficult to make even the educated, intelligent Turk understand that Christian property is not legitimate plunder to those who go to fight for what they believe to be their "country and rights;" and though there are 15,000,000 of Christians in Turkey who contribute very materially to fill the Exchequer of the Turkish Government, that these last have any "rights" whatever.

Regarding the Circassians who were imported and located in Thessaly, at Carttitza, Armyro, Tricala, Pharsala, and Dimoko, their number has been much reduced by sickness, and by the return of many to Constantinople to seek more active fortune in the war. Zeibecks from Smyrna, another race of lawless irregulars, are expected in Thessaly, but their destination is not yet known. The Vali tells me the Government expect to have 50,000 men on the Greek frontier.

From Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney I learn that martial law has also been proclaimed at Yanina and in all Epirus, and a Christian of note has been arrested at Prevesa on suspicion of keeping up a correspondence with the late Russian Consul now at Santa Maura.

Here nothing of the kind has occurred as yet. The Vali has not put any one into prison on suspicion.

The "Pallas" has left us for Besika Bay, and my French colleague, M. Mallet, is gone on a visit to Mount Athos in the French man-of-war "L'Illinois."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 82.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 155. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 27, 1877.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship that, as I had the honour to mention in my previous despatches, the idea of a war still continues to be very unpopular in this Principality, and that the advisers of Prince Milan, both civil and military, continue to urge on His Highness the necessity of delaying the war, and, with that view, are pressing him to obtain from the Emperor of Russia a reprieve and the grant of larger pecuniary subsidies.

It remains to be seen whether Russia will consent to any such delay, and especially to a postponement of Servian hostilities and co-operation till next spring, and even should this be the case, it remains doubtful whether the Porte will not take advantage of the many causes of offence given her by the vassal State to exact some kind of security against the resumption of warlike operations by Prince Milan in 1878, at a time when he will feel himself fully prepared to assume the offensive in such a contest.

There exists always the possibility of Russia taking advantage of the season when operations will have to be suspended in Bulgaria, and when she may be able to dispose of a body of troops through the arrival of reinforcement from Russia, of sending a "corps d'armée" across the Danube from Turnu-Severin to Kladova and thence through Servia, in the direction of Sofia, provided, of course, that the Austro-Hungarian Government gives up the objections which it has been hitherto supposed to entertain to such a plan.

Certainly the contracting of stores of grain both in Servia and at Turnu-Severin (on the Danube) for the Russian Commissariat confirm the contemplation of such a contingency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 83.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 156. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, September 29, 1877.*

SOME months back the Roumanian Government abolished its Diplomatic Agency in Servia, as reported to your Lordship on the 19th of last March.

A couple of days ago M. Lascar Catardgi arrived here as Roumanian Agent on a special mission from Prince Charles to Prince Milan, and I understand that he is going to take up his residence here.

The new Russian Agent, M. Persiani, is likewise expected here to-morrow.

By the arrival of these two gentlemen, two of the belligerent States will again be represented officially and directly in this vassal Principality.

M. Catardgi is maternal uncle to Prince Milan, and brother to the officer of that name whom His Highness employs as his Military Agent at the Imperial Russian head-quarters.

His selection to represent Prince Charles at the Court of his own nephew, and the concurrent arrival of these two Agents, would appear to confirm the report that fresh efforts are being made to counteract the dilatory policy of M. Ristich, and to induce Prince Milan to accelerate the commencement of hostilities ("coute qui coute") at all hazards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 84.

Vice-Consul Bonham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 1. Political.)

My Lord, *Jassy, October 2, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the passage of Russian troops and stores of all kinds through this town is continued; the troops arrive from Russia chiefly by road, and the stores come some by road, some by rail; indeed, I may say that there is an uninterrupted stream of soldiers, stores, and ammunition passing to the South from Russia, and a return stream of sick and wounded going back there. Trains are constantly arriving from the South laden with these men bound for Russia; but, owing to the difference of gauge in the railways, the men are removed at the station from the trains in which they arrive from the South into others, by which they are taken into Russia; such trains start daily.

I inclose a Memorandum on the movement of troops, and subjects connected therewith, giving such information as I have been able to collect during the few days since my arrival, which may also be of interest to other Departments of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. W. BONHAM.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Memorandum on Movement of Russian Troops through Jassy, and subjects connected therewith.

THERE is a large camp of Russian soldiers at Copou, in the higher part of the town, and the troops arriving from Russia appear to halt at Jassy before continuing their journey south; there are also always some troops in bivouac on the other side of the town near the station.

On the 28th ultimo I saw large numbers of ammunition waggons or carts about the station and road, as also many men, but the latter have all gone on now. These ammunition carts are drawn by six horses, and I heard that 700 were to pass through. I saw some hundreds myself, some standing along the high road and the horses tethered near. I saw many on railway trucks, and many horse-boxes filled with horses, but am told that some left by road. The movement of stores and troops is so uninterrupted that I find it difficult to give more particular information at present. I have seen country carts arrive by road with stores evidently from Russia.

On Sunday, the 30th September, I saw two battalions of a Grenadier regiment, with crown and "M" on their shoulder-straps, march through the town on their departure, and yesterday three battalions of another regiment, with crown and "W" on shoulder-strap, which had arrived by road a couple of days before, also marched out. Each battalion appeared to number about 900 men; they seemed in good spirits and health. In the afternoon I saw a battalion of another Grenadier regiment march in; they had a crown with the letters "F R" under it on their shoulder straps. The men seemed tired and footsore, but in good spirits.

The men I have seen are all strong in appearance, but carry a very heavy load. To-day I have seen a good many men at the station ready to leave who have "12 P" on dark (black?) shoulder-straps with red piping.

Large quantities of hay and bread are bought from the peasants, and, so far as I can learn at present, however it may fare with the large contractors, the country people are paid in coin. Russian silver roubles, many quite new, are chiefly current now, and are received as 4½ francs and ¼-roubles in proportion.

Yesterday I saw several hundred small country carts drawn by two oxen laden with corn crowding up to the station and in the adjoining open space. There was a place where corn was being measured and put into sacks. It was all in sacks when taken in towards the railway-trucks.

I have not seen any guns pass through, nor can I hear that any have passed during the last few days; it seems to have been only ammunition carts.

Railway.—The movement at the station is incessant; new wooden platforms and sidings have been made. Arrivals from both directions have to change here, as the attempts to utilize the trucks for both gauges appears not to have answered. At the

commencement, I am told, the Russians brought several narrow-gauge engines, belonging to lines in other parts of Russia, down here on trucks, and these are now at work on the line.

Just outside Paskani the line has been out of order, and in passing the other night the train I was in came very slowly for some distance; there were men at work on it with torches.

Sick and Wounded.—Many trains appear to arrive from the south with sick and wounded, of whom large numbers must pass daily; the men are removed into other carriages and go on to Russia. I was at the station on the 28th, and walking about saw four trains standing on sidings; again yesterday I was there, and saw two trains start for Russia, each such train has forty carriages I was told, and I found that the one I counted had that number of carriages, and they were chiefly partly fitted goods' vans. Some are regular hospital trains. Besides the two I saw start there were lines of goods' vans with sick on at least three sidings; the number of men passing back must be very large. Many houses here have been taken up and used for hospitals.

The weather is fine and very mild.

(Signed) E. W. BONHAM,
Her Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Jassy, October 2, 1877.

No. 85.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 535.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith articles in translation from the Russian press published by the "Agence Russe," commenting on certain rumours of mediation circulated by foreign newspaper, and representing them as premature and unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Extract from the "Agence Russe" of October 2, 1877.

Revue de la Presse Russe. Les Bruits de Médiation.—ON lit dans le "Nouveau Temps":—

"Les absurdes rumeurs de paix émanent exclusivement de Constantinople; c'est la Porte qui demande les bons offices des Puissances pour la conclusion d'un arrangement. Et la diplomatie occidentale s'empresse de saisir l'occasion de rentrer en scène, de reprendre une tâche, assez difficile d'ailleurs, si l'on songe au prix que les Turcs veulent attacher à leurs bons dispositions: indépendance complète et surtout l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman, réédition du Traité de Paris, ce n'est pas autre chose. Voyons quels sont les Représentants étrangers que l'on nous montre en pourparlers suivis avec la Porte dans l'intérêt de la paix. On sait qu'à Constantinople il n'y a plus que les Représentants d'Angleterre, d'Autriche, et d'Allemagne. Mais comme le sentiment Allemand répugne à une intervention diplomatique désagréable à la Russie, ce qui a dû être établi à l'entrevue de Salzbourg, il convient d'éliminer du nombre des médiateurs l'Honorable Prince de Reuss. Restent le Comte Zichy et Sir Layard. Le diplomate Autrichien ne se possède guère lui-même, habitué qu'il est à se prêter au courant du jour, récemment il s'était rallié au Prince de Reuss. En conséquence, tout se borne à un entretien intime entre l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre et la Porte, et c'est ce que le télégraphe de Constantinople nous représente comme un aréopage Européen (?). L'Angleterre perd de vue que la paix conclue dans les conditions actuelles de la campagne n'est susceptible de satisfaire personne. D'ailleurs, à défaut de la Grande Bretagne, les autres Puissances ne consentiront jamais à rétablir la Turquie dans sa situation antérieure, et ne voudront, en tout cas, ajouter foi plus longtemps à ses promesses. L'expérience des deux années qui viennent de s'écouler engagera l'Europe à considérer sous un point de vue plus sérieux la question d'Orient, quand cela ne serait que dans l'intérêt de la tranquillité générale. Il faut supposer que l'Europe est lasse des troubles périodiques et séculaires qui jettent la perturbation sur tous les marchés de l'Europe et effraient l'industrie et le commerce. De leur côté, les Chrétiens de la

presqu'île des Balkans s'accommoderont peu d'une pacification qui les replacerait dans les mains de leurs implacables bourreaux. Les massacres pratiqués en masse, les pendaisons d'Andrinople et de Philippopoli, leur donnent un avant-goût de ce qui les attend si les Turcs reprennent le complet exercice de leur tendre mansuétude. Enfin, la Russie est là pour protester contre toute idée de faiblesse, et, en somme, à elle appartient le dernier mot. Or, en est-il un seul en Russie qui voudrait entendre parler de paix avec la Porte avant que la dignité nationale n'ait reçu complète satisfaction?"

De son côté la "Gazette de la Bourse" s'exprime ainsi sur le même sujet:

"La presse étrangère donne libre cours à son imagination par rapport à de prétendus pourparlers de paix ou du moins de suspension des hostilités. Si la plupart des projets supposés appartiennent au domaine de la pure fantaisie, il en est d'autres, néanmoins, qui affectent des formes plus ou moins acceptables. Tel est celui dont la "Deutsche Zeitung" se fait la propagatrice et dont le germe serait sorti de l'entrevue de Salzbourg. Il s'agirait de décréter: la libre navigation à travers le Bosphore et les Dardanelles; une complète autonomie des provinces de Bulgarie et de Bosnie; la libre navigation sur la Mer Noire et le Danube sous la garantie d'une neutralisation de la Roumanie et, si possible, de sa complète indépendance; retrait à la Porte du droit d'occupation des forteresses sur le Danube; enfin, institution pour les Principautés Danubiennes du protectorat de l'Autriche, comme Puissance plus directement intéressée à leur situation. Un semblable projet, correspondant aux idées de nos voisins d'Orient, est tout-à-fait dans les choses possibles. Aussi nous ne nous refusons pas à admettre que les deux hommes d'Etat d'Allemagne et d'Autriche-Hongrie aient pu s'en entretenir. Ce qui est plus douteux, par exemple, c'est que le projet en question ait des chances de plaire aux autres parties intéressées. L'objectif le plus important, le but fondamental que la Russie ne saurait négliger comme compensation aux énormes sacrifices que lui impose la guerre actuelle, consiste à empêcher à jamais le renouvellement des épisodes qui ont amené la guerre qui sévit actuellement dans la presqu'île des Balkans. Pour la Russie, il ne s'agit pas d'acquisitions territoriales quelconques. Ce qu'il lui faut, c'est que la question d'Orient cesse d'être matière à conflits périodiques. Pour la Russie il faut pouvoir se reposer sûrement et indéfiniment des crises Orientales, d'où qu'elles puissent venir, soit de la révolte des Chrétiens, soit de toute autre cause. Or, l'unique situation pouvant lui procurer cette ère de tranquillité, sera celle qui permettra aux populations des Balkans de se développer librement en dehors du protectorat de qui que ce soit, tout protectorat menaçant à chaque instant de transformer le protégé en vassal au profit d'intérêts étrangers à son bien-être. L'union des Principautés et provinces Slaves sous le protectorat de l'Autriche n'empêchera pas leurs aspirations à l'indépendance et à la liberté. L'autorité de l'Autriche leur semblerait sans doute plus facile à supporter que l'arbitraire du régime Musulman; mais, ce serait encore un joug que leur fierté les pousserait à vouloir secouer à la première occasion. Ce serait par conséquent la perpétration d'un état de trouble nuisant avant tout à la Russie. Le projet qui nous occupe présente à nos yeux le même inconvénient que celui qui ressort d'autres idées semblables émises par la "Deutsche Zeitung." De part et d'autre, on se hâte trop, comme on dit, "de vendre la peau de l'ours avant de l'avoir jeté par terre." A notre sens, la plus simple, l'unique condition de la paix, réside dans l'indépendance complète des Chrétiens de la presqu'île des Balkans reconnue sans conteste, pour le reste, il sera facile de s'entendre."

On lit dans le "Monde Russe" sur le même sujet:—

"Les journaux Anglais viennent de créer dans leurs colonnes une rubrique spéciale: 'Les rumeurs pacifiques.' Il n'y a pas un jour qui n'apporte ses aperçus nouveaux sur ce sujet soit dans le 'Daily Telegraph,' le 'Times,' ou le 'Daily News.' Récemment le 'Times' mettait en vedette un article consacré à exalter les 'magnanimes' intentions de la Turquie, laquelle se montrait disposée à entamer des pourparlers sur la base du '*status quo*' existant avant la guerre, dans le cas même où elle devrait sortir victorieuse de la lutte engagée. Une autre communication d'un caractère plus précis fait ouvertement allusion à des efforts engagés à Constantinople pour disposer la Porte en faveur de la paix. L'Ambassadeur d'Autriche-Hongrie, le Comte Zichy, aurait été reçu en audience par le Sultan et aurait usé de toutes les ressources de son éloquence pour attendrir Abdul Hamid sur le sort de la Russie; il serait, en effet, arrivé à lui inspirer une certaine pitié. Comme tout cela est bien bâclé, n'est-ce pas? On ne dira pas que le 'Times' est incapable, à ces moments perdus, de pratiquer une douce plaisanterie. Réservez, Messieurs, votre

attendrissement pour une occasion meilleure. Dites-vous bien que l'amour-propre de la Russie, qui paraît vous tenir tant à cœur, consiste pour elle, non à riposter à vos drôlatiques billevesées, mais à poursuivre jusqu'au bout l'œuvre enfamée."

No. 86.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, October* 4, 1877.

ADVERTING to the report from Santa Maura, accompanying the despatch No. 19, Political, which I had the honour to address to your Lordship on the 17th ultimo, relative to the suspected movements of the two noted brigand Chiefs, Photakis and Skiladimos, in the direction of the Greco-Turkish frontier, I regret to have to state that, however active the alleged exertions of the Greek police, no accounts have as yet been received of the arrest of those dangerous individuals, or of the dispersion of their followers.

2. Immediately on the proclamation of martial law in Epirus, the members of the Russian clique, known or suspected, hastened to quit the province. The most dangerous of those parties succeeded in joining the Russian Vice-Consuls for Arta and Prevesa, who had, from the outbreak of hostilities, established themselves at Santa Maura, whence they continue to carry on their intrigues against the Turks with ceaseless activity.

3. From the inclosed copy of my latest report from Santa Maura, it will be observed that a strong military force is being concentrated in that island, with what object it is utterly impossible to divine, unless they are intended to second any eventual attack on Epirus by Colonel Grivas and his Acarnanians. The barracks in the fort will not accommodate more than 300 men at the utmost, and the remainder will have to be quartered in the town, where they will be quickly decimated by ague fever, which at this season prevails there to a frightful extent.

4. The war fever is, I am happy to say, calming down in all the islands, and the old distrust of the Russians is awakening in all its intensity. As to Corfu, there can be no more patent proof that the game of war is regarded as hopeless than that afforded by the departure of Colonels McIvor and De Becker; the former, as he himself informed me, for Switzerland, the latter for Montenegro, heartily tired of the inactive life he has for so many months been condemned to lead at Corfu.

"Colonel Henri McIvor," as he writes himself, is decidedly "cracked;" but De Becker is one of the finest specimens I have ever met of an officer and a gentleman.

5. I venture to trouble your Lordship with the following extracts from the private reports of the Vice-Consuls for the southern islands, which are not without a certain degree of interest at the present crisis.

Cephalonia.—Acting Vice-Consul Saunders writes, under date the 26th ultimo:—

"The Cephalonians don't seem very sanguine about the war, though big words are occasionally heard from hot-headed demagogues.

"The Cephalonians were taught a bitter lesson by the Union, and are, besides, too much sickened by the state of things in Greece in general to show any undue enthusiasm. I don't mean to say by this that they would not, perhaps, prove themselves the 'doughty Cephalonists' of the olden time if they had any confidence in the good faith of their Government."

Zante.—On the 30th ultimo Mr. Stevens favours me with the following brief account of the present state of the public mind:—

"The Zantiotes are absorbed by the prospects of their currant crop, which promises well both as to quantity and prices, and give up little of their time to the warlike dispositions of the Athenians, which, however, from all accounts, seem on the decline."

This is all very well for the moment; but the Zantiotes, it is to be feared, will at all times be very much guided by any impulse proceeding from their democratic leader Lombardos, to whom they are still too blindly attached.

6. I have only further to add that yesterday I had a long conversation on the present aspect of affairs with the Ottoman Consul-General, who expressed his entire conviction that tranquillity is assured in Albania for the winter, at least, and that English sportsmen may this season revisit their favourite haunts, in pursuit of game, with perfect safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, September* 29, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that a further reinforcement of troops, consisting of 463 rank and file, mostly of the reserve, arrived here from Cephalonia by the ordinary Greek mail-boat yesterday.

This garrison now consists of one battalion, including one battery of mountain artillery, but it is said that another battalion, which would make up one regiment, or 2,000 men, will shortly arrive from other parts of Greece.

2. No further intelligence has been received here as regards the band alluded to in my despatch No. 25, Political.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 87.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 428.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 7, 1877, 7 P.M.

I AM informed that Grand Vizier sends a telegram to Prince Milan to the following effect:—

That Servia has had constant proofs of friendliness of the Porte, especially in its consent to the re-establishment of peace on the *status quo*. That the Porte had a right to expect that Servia would observe her engagements, and especially under present circumstances, towards her Suzerain. That the Porte has, therefore, seen with grief her military preparations, and especially the calling to arms of the militia, the provisioning of her fortresses, and the concentration of troops. That the pacific assurances given by her, through her Agent here, are not consistent with these facts; that the Grand Vizier does not hesitate to address himself directly to the Prince, and to appeal to his loyalty, certain that he will avoid doing anything contrary to the good understanding between Servia and her Suzerain, which is the best guarantee for the security and prosperity of the Principalities.

Sent to Belgrade.

No. 88.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 429.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 7, 1877, 10·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING sent to Athens confidentially:—

"Grand Vizier and Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs are, I am informed by Mr. Sandison, satisfied with the considerate manner in which the Greek Government has acted in the affair of Skaltsho Yani. M. Tricoupi having informed Turkish Minister at Athens that anticipating wishes of the Porte Greek Government had taken measures to punish authorities responsible for the escape of this person, and had even dismissed the Prefect of the district. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs seems now to think that there is a prospect of the affair of the Greek Consul at Canea in Crete, referred to in my telegram No. 419, being satisfactorily settled.

"The reported attack upon Greek Consul at Larissa is absolutely denied by Turkish authorities there."

No. 89.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 430.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 8, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th instant, it is difficult to get at the truth in such matters, but my impression is that Mehemet Ali Pasha's removal and the appointment of Suleiman are due to an intrigue, although there were apparently grounds of

complaint against the former on account of his slowness and vacillation. I am informed that Suleiman has taken 25 battalions from Shipka, and that he intends to commence operations against Russians shortly.

No. 90.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 431.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 8, 1877, 10·40 A.M.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that in a detailed bulletin dated yesterday Moukhtar Pasha states the Russian forces engaged in the three days' battles last week to have amounted to 64 battalions infantry, 16 regiments cavalry, and 130 guns, and estimates their losses at 15,000 men, the Turkish loss not exceeding 2,500 killed and wounded.

No. 91.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 581. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1877.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve the language which, as reported in your despatch No. 1106, Confidential, of the 22nd ultimo, you held to M. Christitch on the occasion of his calling upon you to inform you that he had received fresh assurances from M. Ristitch that Servia was not making preparations to attack Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 92.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 90. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, September* 28, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the three forts in the Duga Pass, Zlostup, Nozdrcu, and Presjeka, have all surrendered to the Montenegrins. The Turkish garrisons were not retained as prisoners. They were not, however, allowed to remain in the Herzegovina, but were conducted to the Albanian frontier, I believe to Spuz. According to the latest news received here, the fort of Goransko, at Piva, and Metokia, at Gacko, are likewise blockaded by the Montenegrins. The former of these has probably ere this surrendered, but Metokia may possibly hold out till succour arrives. Three battalions of infantry, I am informed, have been sent thither from Mostar.

The Ferik Sali Zeki Pasha has been removed from his command in the Herzegovina and recalled to Constantinople to account for his inactivity. He excuses himself by saying that he had neither sufficient artillery nor transport animals, and no superior officers to rely upon. Ali Pasha, lately commanding at Banjaluka, has been sent to the Herzegovina to replace Sali Zeki Pasha, but, from all I hear, he is not likely to prove himself superior to his predecessor. Iskender Bey, late Commandant of Nichsich, has been promoted to the rank of Liva Pasha for his prolonged defence of that town. He has been there since the very outbreak of the insurrection.

Considerable reinforcements are being now sent to the Herzegovina. Five battalions of infantry have already been sent from Bosnia, and the first class, with part of the second class of the "Asaker Mouvinch" of the Sandjaks of Travnik and Serajevo have been called out and are leaving daily for Mostar. These latter-mentioned auxiliary troops, which are, in fact, nothing but irregulars or Bashi-Bazouks, were very unwilling to march. Those from the town of Serajevo, about 600 in number, consist for the most part of the more influential and respectable merchants and shopkeepers of the town, and their departure has naturally a most depressing effect on trade and industry.

The Governor-General Mahzar Pasha assured me yesterday that the force at the disposal of Ali Pasha will thus in a few days consist of twenty-eight battalions of infantry, about 3,000 effective Mustahfiz of the Herzegovina, and the same number of "Asaker-Mouavinch" from Bosnia, and that he will have, therefore, no possible excuse for inactivity; 600 baggage animals have also been requisitioned from the Sandjak of Travnik and sent to the Herzegovina. The peasants will receive 8 piastres per diem and forage for each horse, and a daily ration of about 2 lbs. of bread for each man. Mahzar Pasha says that he has thus done all in his power, and it now remains with the military authorities to make a proper use of the force at their disposal.

If the Turks make a forward movement, undoubtedly the Montenegrins cannot hold all the positions they have occupied, and what I fear is that, when forced to retire, they will burn the towns and places in their possession and thus complete the ruin and devastation of the Herzegovina. Nichsich is not likely to fall again into the hands of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 93.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 9.)

(No. 254. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 2, 1877.

A RUMOUR is gaining ground that the Roumanian Chambers will be shortly assembled for an extraordinary session, with a view of taking into consideration the present and future co-operation of the Roumanian army in the campaign south of the Danube.

Before the separation of the Legislature, the Chambers acquiesced in the policy of a defensive war against the Sublime Porte, on which occasion the Minister President remarked, that the exigencies of defensive warfare sometimes entailed the necessity of operations upon the enemy's territory, words which not only received no sanction on the part of the Chamber, but were not even met by a response of any sort.

Although the participation in the war by the Moldo-Wallachian army is now as thoroughly condemned by every phase of public opinion in this country as at any period during the last few months, the Roumanians are justly proud of the military qualities displayed by their army, and I imagine that the past will be easily condoned both in and outside the Chamber.

A powerful section in the Chamber, however, considers that the Roumanian army has amply gained their spurs, and that now, or at an early date, the troops should be withdrawn, more especially on the consideration that, should the Danube be frozen early in the winter, the forces will be required to protect the line of the river from incursions across the ice by the irregular troops of the Porte.

That the army is now south of the Danube is, in the opinion of many, regarded as a violation of the Constitution, indeed the latter may almost be said to be in abeyance; no vote has sanctioned the Prince's prolonged absence across the frontier, there is no Regency, the Minister President himself is constantly out of Roumanian territory; and, indeed, it may be said that the whole Governmental machine is dislocated to no inconsiderable degree.

When the position of the Roumanian army is taken into consideration, other questions appear which may become causes of embarrassment; the Russian Commander-in-chief may object to the withdrawal of a force which secures the safety of the extreme right of the Russian base, so that the continuance of the Moldo-Wallachian forces south of the Danube may perhaps pass out of the control of this Government.

The Roumanian Exchequer is more impecunious than ever, and it is doubted by many whether the troops even can remain in the field many more weeks, or even days. The Prince might inform the Russian Government that if the army is to continue active co-operation, funds must be forthcoming; but it is, of course, a delicate matter to withdraw a force from before an enemy on the allegation that the necessary funds are not forthcoming, and such a declaration is one which would doubtless be extremely repugnant to the Prince, the army, and the Government.

It is impossible to predict the issue of this question, but I may say that M. Rosetti, and a large moiety of his following, are believed to be in favour of the withdrawal of the Roumanian forces at any price.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 94.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 785.)

My Lord, *Vienna, October 6, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 374 of the 25th April last, on the subject of a complaint brought by Mr. John Arthur Evans against the police authorities of Croatia for improper treatment which he met with at their hands, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation by Mr. Milbanke of a note which I have received from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, stating that Mr. Evans had no just grounds for making the complaint in question, as the police authorities only required him to comply with the regulations now in force for the revision of passports, and treated him with all civility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Count Andrassy to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Translation.) *Vienna, September 24, 1877.*

THE Imperial and Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs has not failed to institute inquiries into Mr. Arthur John Evans' complaint, which formed the inclosure in Sir Andrew Buchanan's note of the 25th April, and has now the honour to make the following communication to his Excellency on the subject:—

According to the evidence produced, it appears that the complaint in question contains several false statements, which may partly be attributed to misunderstandings.

The police officer who required the production of the passport at Lapac was obliged, owing to his not being master of the English language, to call upon Mr. Evans to come to the district court (Bezirksamt) to verify that document.

The passport was there revised in the regular manner, and Mr. Evans was asked where he was going and what was the object of his journey. It may here be remarked that the passport contained the German and French visa, but not that for Austria-Hungary; but this was not considered to invalidate the document, nor were any unseemly remarks made respecting it. On the contrary, the passport was returned to the traveller with the remark that he was quite at liberty to continue his journey.

There were not only no obstacles put in his way, but, on Mr. Evans expressing a wish to visit Vukup, the authorities even sent written instructions to the Mudirat at Vukup to procure an escort necessary for this journey.

Mr. Evans appears to have been indignant at the fact of his passport being required of him for revision, but every traveller must comply with the regulations the Government may issue in this respect.

The statement that Mr. Evans was watched by the authorities during his presence at Lapac is declared to be entirely incorrect. His appearance in the little village did indeed create some excitement, and people stood in the streets to look at him, and perhaps this induced Mr. Evans to think that he was being watched.

Lastly, the statement that the district officer (Bezirkshauptmann) had warned the inn-keeper against any dealings with Mr. Evans, and had wanted to dissuade the Dolmetsch and guide, Mile Pairsich, from accompanying him, is entirely refuted by the documentary evidence of both these persons.

The pretended difficulties that were raised at Irb are simply to be attributed to the present strict regulations for the revision of passports, and Mr. Evans had no cause to fear an arrest or being escorted to Lapac.

The Undersigned has the honour to bring the above to Sir Andrew Buchanan's knowledge, and avails himself, &c.

For the Minister for Foreign Affairs,
(Signed) ORCZY.

No. 95.

Mr. James, M.P., to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

My Lord, *Travellers' Club, Pall Mall, October 9, 1877.*

MY attention has been called by certain gentlemen connected with the English press to a paragraph contained in a despatch dated Therapia, May 30 (Blue Book, Turkey, No. 26), in the papers laid before Parliament at the close of the session, in which Mr. Layard, in addressing your Lordship with reference to outrages alleged to have taken place in Bulgaria in May 1876, makes use of the following remark: "There are persons, and amongst them, I grieve to say, Englishmen, who boast that they have invented these stories with the object of writing down Turkey, to which they were impelled by a well-known hand." As this statement is one of a very serious character, and indefinitely impugns the veracity and honour of various persons, I desire to ascertain whether your Lordship will communicate with Mr. Layard, and obtain from him authentic particulars with regard to these charges, and more particularly with reference to the Englishmen who have been thus implicated.

By the ambiguous nature of the language the reputation of several correspondents and others of high character is both compromised and damaged, and I therefore venture to address your Lordship in order that statements of so serious a nature may be either withdrawn or fully substantiated. This is the more necessary, because, having been placed on record in official documents issued by Her Majesty's Government, they will, if not now challenged, be regarded as historically true.

As I may feel it my duty, at the proper time, to bring this matter before the notice of Parliament, I feel it would be unjust to Mr. Layard were I not to take the opportunity of requesting a full explanation from him, through your Lordship, in the interests of the public service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALON HENRY JAMES.

No. 96.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 8, 7877, 9 P.M.*

I AM privately informed that it was decided at a Council of War yesterday, in opposition to the opinion of the Grand Duke Nicholas, to attack Plevna from the Sofia side. Thereupon Grand Duke resigned his command of the army, which was given to General Todleben. The attack is to be made to-morrow morning. I cannot guarantee this information, but it has reached me from a good source.

No. 97.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October 10.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le $\frac{1}{23}$ Septembre, 1877.*

PARMI les documents communiqués au Parlement par le Gouvernement Britannique et publiés sous le No. 26 dans le recueil de la correspondance concernant les affaires de Turquie, se trouve un rapport de Mr. Layard à Lord Derby que je cite en traduction textuelle:—

"My Lord, *"Therapia, le 19 Juin, 1877.*

"Je suis informé que le Consul-Général de Grèce à Constantinople a récemment relâché des personnes mal famées, qui s'y trouvaient dans la prison Grecque, condamnées pour différents crimes et les a envoyées en Grèce avec d'autres personnes dangereuses ramassées dans la lie de la population Grecque de la ville. J'ai été assuré qu'elles doivent être employées à commettre des actes d'agression et des outrages sur la frontière Turque.

(Signé) "A. H. LAYARD."

Cette dénonciation, ayant été portée à ma connaissance par Mr. Stuart en même temps qu'elle fut adressée à Lord Derby, je m'étais empressé de lui opposer le démenti le

plus formel, ainsi que je vous l'avais fait connaître dès lors par ma dépêche en date du 12/24 Juin. Malgré cela, le Gouvernement Britannique a cru devoir publier le rapport dénonciateur sans le faire accompagner de celui où Mr. Stuart rendait compte de ma réponse. Une accusation aussi grave et touchant à l'honneur du Gouvernement Hellénique a pu ainsi circuler sans réfutation et sous la sanction du Gouvernement Britannique, quoique dénuée de tout fondement et de toute excuse.

Aussitôt que j'ai eu connaissance de cette publication j'invitai M. Coundouriotì à écrire à Mr. Layard de vouloir bien produire la preuve de ses assertions ou les rétracter. Vous trouverez, ci-joint, la lettre de M. Coundouriotì et la réponse de Mr. Layard. Veuillez en donner connaissance à Lord Derby et réclamer de son équité la réparation, quoique tardive, de l'injustice commise à notre égard. J'ai la pleine confiance que sa Seigneurie s'empressera de donner à la rétractation une publicité égale à celle qui fut accordée à la dénonciation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 97.

M. Coundouriotis to Mr. Layard.

Bouyoukdéré, ce 19/31 Août, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

DANS le dernier Blue Book, j'ai lu une dépêche que votre Excellence a adressée à Lord Derby, en date du 19 Juin dernier, et par laquelle vous informez sa Seigneurie que le Consul-Général de Grèce en cette ville a mis en liberté quelques individus emprisonnés par le Consulat-Général pour divers crimes, et qu'il les a ensuite envoyés en Grèce avec d'autres individus dangereux, choisis parmi les plus mauvais sujets de la population Grecque, pour être expédiés aux frontières Turco-Helléniques en vue de commettre des actes d'agression et d'outrage.

Je suis désolé, M. l'Ambassadeur, de ce que la personne qui vous a fournie cette nouvelle vous a induit en erreur. Et d'abord les prisons du Consulat-Général ne contiennent pas de criminels ; car les crimes commis par des sujets Hellènes sur des sujets Ottomans sont jugés, ainsi que vous le savez, par les Tribunaux du pays, et les criminels sujets Hellènes sont détenus dans les prisons Ottomanes. Lorsque le cas d'un crime entre sujets Hellènes se présente, ce prévenu est immédiatement envoyé à Syra pour être jugé par la Cour d'Assizes, et il subit ensuite sa peine dans les prisons d'Etat.

Je viens par conséquent vous prier de vouloir bien rétracter les informations susmentionnées, à moins que vous puissiez me fournir des preuves incontestables sur les faits relatés dans votre rapport.

Confiant à l'esprit de justice de votre Excellence je ne doute point que vous prendrez en considération ma juste demande.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) COUNDOURIOTIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 97.

Mr. Layard to M. Coundouriotis.

Therapia, September 12, 1877.

My dear Colleague,

I HAVE not returned an earlier answer to your Excellency's letter of the 19/31th ultimo, as before doing so I was desirous of instituting full inquiries into the truth of the statement made to me, and published in the "Blue Book," to the effect that Greek subjects had been released from prison by the Greek Consular authorities in Constantinople and sent to Athens to serve against Turkey. It is right that I should now inform your Excellency that the result of these inquiries is not such as to enable me to furnish the incontestable proof you require that the statement in question was well founded. I therefore readily accept your Excellency's declaration that the person who gave me the information upon which it was based misled me, and I shall have much pleasure in so informing the Earl of Derby, who will no doubt take steps to give publicity to your Excellency's explanation and denial.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 98.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October 10.)

Athènes, le 28 Septembre, 1877.

Monsieur,

VOUS n'ignorez pas que la Sublime Porte a proclamé depuis quelque temps la loi martiale dans plusieurs de ses provinces. Les Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople, à l'exception de l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, se sont empressés de faire, en faveur de leurs nationaux, des représentations auprès de la Porte contre la juridiction créée par cette loi, juridiction incompatible, quant aux étrangers, avec les Capitulations. La Porte a répondu à ces représentations, que la loi en question ne concernait pas les sujets étrangers. Quant à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, il s'est réservé de faire les démarches nécessaires au sujet de cette loi, dès que la Porte l'aura communiquée aux Légations. En attendant la Porte n'en a fait, jusqu'ici, aucune communication officielle, et tout porte à croire que cette communication, pour des raisons faciles à concevoir, n'aura pas lieu.

Mais tout en s'abstenant de communiquer officiellement aux Légations la loi précitée, la Porte a donné des instructions aux Gouverneurs des Provinces pour sa mise à exécution, et les Gouverneurs de Salonique, d'Andrinople, de l'Epire, et de la Thessalie ont déjà notifié la mise en vigueur de cette loi par des Circulaires adressées aux Consuls des Puissances Européennes.

Sur les ordres du Gouvernement Royal, les Consuls Helléniques compétents ont répondu à cette communication, qu'on ne saurait permettre que la moindre atteinte fût portée aux Capitulations.

Cette réponse constituait un déclinatoire formel contre la loi en question, en ce qui concerne les sujets étrangers.

Mais les autorités locales n'ont pas entendu respecter, à l'égard des sujets Hellènes, les priviléges découlant des Capitulations.

Les rapports de nos autorités Consulaires signalent une série de mesures arbitraires contre des sujets Hellènes, qui ont été traduits devant les cours martiales au mépris des représentations de nos Consuls.

Un tel état de choses révèle chez les autorités locales l'intention manifeste de faire tomber en désuétude les immunités dont jouissent les sujets Hellènes en Turquie.

Nous avons dû, en conséquence, charger M. Coundouriotì de réclamer de la Porte, qu'elle fasse connaître aux autorités des provinces que la loi martiale n'est pas applicable aux sujets étrangers.

La coopération des Puissances étrangères étant nécessaire pour assurer le succès de la démarche de M. Coundouriotì, vous êtes prié d'entretenir de cette affaire le Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, afin qu'il veuille bien donner à cet effet des instructions à son Représentant à Constantinople.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 99.

Consul Richetts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 10.)

Tiflis, October 8, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FIFTEEN thousand rebels under arms in East Caucasus. Muscovite army repulsed near Kars on 3rd. Loss officially 3,000, but believed to be 6,000. Account of rise of 40 (?) sent from Soukoum Kalé to head-quarters; no fresh arrivals of any importance.

No. 100.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, October 11.)

Athènes, le 29 September, 1877.

Monsieur,

MR. WYNDHAM m'a entretenu hier et aujourd'hui des instructions qu'il avait reçues par la dernière poste de Londres, au sujet de certaines recommandations qu'il devait m'adresser de la part de Lord Derby.

Ces instructions, quoique parvenues à Athènes après celles qui ont provoqué les communications de Mr. Wyndham du 21 Août/2 Septembre et du 26 Août/7 Septembre ne leur sont cependant pas

postérieures en date ; portées par la poste, elles ont été anticipées par les autres, transmises par télégraphe.

Agissant sur ces nouvelles instructions Mr. Wyndham m'a dit qu'il était chargé par Lord Derby de faire ressortir à mes yeux l'opportunité du maintien par la Grèce d'une attitude de stricte et impartiale neutralité et de déclarer que la Grande Bretagne, en sa qualité de Puissance garante de l'indépendance du Royaume Hellénique et responsable pour le paiement de la dette Hellénique, avait le droit d'espérer que les Conseillers du Roi des Hellènes ne se laisseraient pas entraîner, par le désir d'un agrandissement national, à engager la nation dans un conflit ruineux, et que les sujets Hellènes seraient empêchés de provoquer la Porte à prendre des mesures hostiles par des actes de guerre non autorisée et privée. Mr. Wyndham a ajouté qu'il était aussi chargé de déclarer que le Gouvernement Anglais avait reçu avec satisfaction les explications et les assurances à ce sujet, offertes par moi au Ministre de la Reine, et que son Gouvernement avait la confiance qu'il n'y aurait pas défaut de bon vouloir et d'énergie de la part du Gouvernement Hellénique dans l'accomplissement des obligations qui lui incombent de son aveu.

Jusqu'à ce point la communication de Mr. Wyndham n'appelait de ma part aucune observation si ce n'est pour prendre acte de la déclaration de Lord Derby que les explications et les assurances données par moi à Mr. Stuart étaient jugées par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique satisfaisantes et suffisantes. Après cette déclaration, il était à supposer que, tant que le bon vouloir et l'énergie du Gouvernement Hellénique dans l'accomplissement de ses engagements ne pouvait être mis en question, nous n'aurions à attendre du Gouvernement Britannique que des communications empreintes de la bienveillance à laquelle la nation Hellénique depuis sa grande lutte pour l'indépendence a été habituée par la nation Anglaise. J'ai donc eu tout lieu d'être surpris et peiné d'apprendre de Mr. Wyndham qu'il venait, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, me donner connaissance du contenu d'un télégramme, adressé le $\frac{16}{28}$ Août par la Porte à Musurus Pacha et communiqué par l'Ambassadeur de Turquie à Lord Derby le $\frac{22 \text{ Août}}{3 \text{ Septembre}}$. Voici la substance de ce télégramme :—

"Le Gouvernement Hellénique continue de nous donner des assurances de son désir de cultiver des relations amicales avec nous. Le Gouvernement Impérial déclare formellement son sincère désir d'en faire autant, et qu'il n'a pas d'intentions hostiles envers la Grèce. Malheureusement les faits ne correspondent pas aux assurances pacifiques du Gouvernement Grec. Les bandes qui ont franchi la frontière n'ont pas encore été rappelées, leurs chefs ne sont pas punis, de nouvelles bandes sont formées, des volontaires sont recrutés clandestinement en grand nombre parmi nos populations, ce qui constitue une flagrante violation du droit international, des comités révolutionnaires agissent avec une énergie toujours croissante et les autorités, qui sont parfaitement renseignées sur leurs agissements, ne font pas usage du pouvoir qu'elles possèdent pour les réprimer, tandis que la presse officielle en Grèce ne fait rien pour calmer l'opinion publique, travaillée par les organes non officielles de la presse. Tant que dure cet état de choses, le Gouvernement Impérial doit considérer la tranquillité des provinces Turques limitrophes de la Grèce comme sérieusement menacée et ne peut fermer les yeux à cette vérité. La Turquie étant engagée dans les hostilités avec un ennemi puissant, elle n'est bien certainement disposée à provoquer de nouvelles complications ; mais quand une autre Puissance tâche de profiter de cet état de choses, en travaillant à provoquer une insurrection, n'est-ce pas le devoir sacré d'un Gouvernement d'empêcher le mal, d'augmenter, et de chercher à l'arrêter, non par des demi-mesures, mais en frappant à la racine même? En soumettant ces observations à Lord Derby, vous insisterez spécialement sur ce dernier point."

Lord Derby ayant trouvé mes explications satisfaisantes je pouvais me dispenser d'entrer avec Mr. Wyndham dans l'examen détaillé des griefs articulés par la Porte dans ce télégramme contre le Gouvernement Hellénique. Je le pouvais d'autant mieux que Mr. Wyndham demeurant parmi nous, était en état de constater par lui-même le défaut de tout fondement légitime à ces dénonciations. J'ai pourtant cru devoir passer en revue un à un les chapitres du requisitoire Turc pour en faire justice. Mr. Wyndham connaissait un note responsive à Photiades Bey, en date $\frac{1}{13}$ Août, qui a clos la discussion avec la Porte au sujet des soi-disant incursions de bandes de Grèce en Turquie. Cette note réfutait les accusations formulées par le Ministre de Turquie au sujet de la formation de bandes en Grèce et de leur incursion en Turquie, et relevait le fait que les associés dans ces bandes, qui avaient pris refuge en Grèce, avaient été arrêtés et livrés au Procureur du Roi à Lamia, qui en faisait poursuivre sévèrement l'accusation. La Porte n'avait pas répliqué à mon office, et la question était considérée comme vidée, lorsque, inopinément, nous voyons les mêmes accusations reparaître dans un télégramme du Gouvernement Turc, destiné à être communiqué à notre insu au Gouvernement Britannique. Un pareil procédé peut se passer de commentaires. La Porte sait aussi que la cause de l'ordre n'a

qu'à se louer de l'action des Comités Nationaux qu'elle veut bien dénoncer dans son télégramme. Dans l'exercice du contrôle légitime qu'il exerce sur ces Comités, le Gouvernement du Roi a été heureux de constater qu'il les a trouvés animés du désir de le seconder dans l'accomplissement de ses obligations internationales. Quant à la presse, la loi Grecque offre des remèdes à ceux qui auraient de justes plaintes contre des journaux ; mais la Porte ne prétend pas que nos journaux aient enfreint la loi dans leurs critiques contre elle ; c'est de leur action légale qu'elle se plaint, parcequ'elle ne lui est pas favorable. Ce n'est pas en parlant à un Agent Diplomatique de l'Angleterre qu'il était nécessaire de relever ce qu'il y avait d'inconvenant dans la prétention de la Porte, que la presse Grecque se fit le défenseur obligé de sa cause.

La Porte dénonce enfin le recrutement, soi-disant clandestin, de volontaires en Turquie, ce qui constituerait, d'après elle, une violation flagrante de la loi internationale. Les cadres de notre armée étant au complet, les volontaires n'y sont plus admis et, d'ailleurs, quand ils l'étaient, l'affluence en était assez grande pour nous dispenser d'aller les recruter nous-mêmes en Turquie. Il est vrai que des Comités s'étaient formés dans quelques villes de Turquie, pour faciliter le transport de volontaires en Grèce, mais en cela il n'y avait rien de clandestin. L'opération était des plus légitimes et pouvait s'exercer au grand jour. On accomplit un noble devoir en venant servir son pays et on n'a pas besoin de se cacher, soit pour s'offrir soi-même à l'accomplissement de ce devoir, soit pour aider ses nationaux à l'accomplir. La Porte a prétendu que nous enrôlions aussi des sujets Ottomans. Notre loi s'y oppose, et cela suffit pour réfuter cette assertion, mais il en serait autrement, que nous ne reconnaîtrions pas à la Porte le droit de nous adresser à ce sujet des remontrances. C'est ce que nous avons eu l'occasion de dire, il y a déjà longtemps, à Photiades Bey, tout en reconnaissant que le cas ne pourrait se présenter dans l'état actuel de notre législation militaire.

Tant il est vrai que tout pays est libre d'enrôler qui bon lui semble dans son armée, qu'il y a des législations étrangères qui accordent la naturalisation de plein droit aux étrangers qui prennent du service dans l'Etat.

Tel est l'échafaudage par lequel la Porte cherche à étayer le projet qu'elle caresse d'une agression contre la Grèce. Il est de son devoir sacré, dit-elle, d'attaquer le mal dans sa racine même, et elle attire spécialement l'attention de Lord Derby sur cette menace. Elle est grave en effet, et de nature à éveiller toute la sollicitude de ceux qui s'intéressent à la Grèce, ou qui sont responsables de sa sécurité. Lorsque surtout une Puissance qui a garanti l'indépendance de la Grèce, au lieu d'opposer à un pareil langage la réprobation qu'il mérite, se charge de le porter à notre connaissance, il y a là pour le Gouvernement Hellénique un avis que c'est dans ses propres forces qu'il doit chercher la garantie de ses droits et un encouragement à persévérer dans la voie qu'il s'est tracée, et, tout en respectant lui-même les droits d'autrui, à activer le développement de ses forces, afin de pouvoir faire respecter par les autres ses propres droits.

Mr. Wyndham n'ayant fait observer que c'était dans l'intérêt de la paix que le Gouvernement Britannique s'était chargé de cette communication, je lui répondit que le Gouvernement Hellénique n'était pas disposé à acheter la paix au prix du sacrifice de ses droits, et que la nation Hellénique serait prête à tous les sacrifices pour préserver ses droits et accomplir ses devoirs dans la crise actuelle. Ce n'était pas en nous donnant le conseil de céder à l'intimidation ou à des hostilités effectives qu'on parviendrait à maintenir en paix la nation Hellénique, bien au contraire c'était en faisant respecter les droits de l'Hellénisme, qu'on pourrait écarter les dangers d'un conflit. Ce qui se passait en Thessalie, en Epire, en Macédoine, en Crète devait attirer l'attention des Puissances, désireuses de voir l'Hellénisme garder la paix, et non les préparatifs militaires et parfaitement légitimes d'un petit Etat, qui se voit menacé dans son honneur et dans ses droits, et abandonné pour leur défense à ses propres moyens. Il semblerait, en effet, que la Porte aurait pris à tâche d'accumuler comme à plaisir, dans les provinces Grecques de la Turquie, les causes d'un soulèvement, en poussant à bout leur patience ainsi que celle de l'Etat limitrophe. La Thessalie est mise à sac par les Bashi-Bazouks de la Ghnegharie, qui y ont été établis à cet effet, et, pour en compléter l'œuvre, des Zéibeks viennent d'y être expédiés de l'Asie Mineure. Le pillage, le meurtre, le viol, telle est la loi sous laquelle gémissent les Chrétiens de cette province. Hier encore 1,200 Zéibeks ont débarqué à Volo venant de Smyrne. Après avoir saccagé la ville, ils sont repartis le soir pour Larisse, où il est à craindre qu'ils n'accomplissent en ce moment l'œuvre de dévastation. Il y a quelques jours, dans cette même ville de Larisse, le Consulat Hellénique fut violemment attaqué par 200 Bashi-Bazouks à cheval, et nous avons dû demander et nous attendons une réparation éclatante de cette insulte. En Epire et en Macédoine, quoique le mal ne soit pas encore arrivé au même point qu'en Thessalie, l'état des Chrétiens depuis la proclamation de la loi martiale est devenu intolérable. Non contentes d'user de

l'arbitraire contre les sujets Ottomans, les autorités Turques prétendent, malgré les privilèges acquis en vertu des Capitulations, soumettre à l'empire de la loi martiale les sujets Hellènes établis en Turquie. La Porte méconnait aussi les droits souverains de la Grèce sur ses mers territoriales, en portant des limitations à la liberté de navigation du littoral Hellénique dans le Golfe d'Arta. Elle viole en même temps les Traités, en occupant le promontoire de Punta à l'entrée de ce golfe par des forces militaires considérables et en y élevant de nouveaux retranchements.

Malgré la promesse écrite de faire cesser la colonisation des Circassiens, de nouveaux immigrants sont transportés à Salonique pour être de là distribués en Macédoine et en Thessalie. En Crète enfin les Chrétiens n'ont pu obtenir l'exécution des engagements pris par le Gouvernement Ottoman, et leurs délégués sont encore à attendre la réponse de la Porte à leurs dernières remontrances. Une pareille situation peut rendre problématique le maintien de la paix, et, dans ma conversation avec Mr. Wyndham, j'ai insisté sur l'urgente nécessité d'une intervention du Gouvernement Britannique auprès de la Porte pour mettre fin à cet état de choses, en faisant respecter les droits méconnus des Grecs en Turquie, en faisant cesser les violations des obligations internationales de la Turquie envers la Grèce, et en nous faisant obtenir une prompte et suffisante réparation pour l'insulte éprouvée par un de nos Consulats en Thessalie.

Les documents dont nous vous avons muni vous mettent à même de fournir à Lord Derby la preuve de chacun des griefs que nous venons de formuler. Vous voudrez donc bien, en donnant à sa Seigneurie lecture et copie de la présente dépêche, vous offrir à lui procurer tous les renseignements qui pourraient lui être utiles, pour appuyer les représentations que nous le prions d'adresser à la Porte dans l'intérêt de l'humanité, de la justice, et de la paix.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 101.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, September 27, 1877.*

HAVING had reason to doubt the accuracy of the contents of the private letter addressed to me from Soukoum Kaleh on the 21st June last, which I communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 33 of the 6th July last, I have endeavoured, ever since the arrival at Trebizond of the Abazian emigrants, to ascertain personally how far was grounded the report that 1,500 families had been starved to death by the Cossacks in the woods near Adler.

I have been unable to discover emigrants from that locality, but I made inquiries from Abazians who lived in the neighbouring villages, and the following is the result of my researches:—

Leaving aside the statements of the Christians, which might be considered as not being exempt of partiality for Russia, those of the Mussulman emigrants show that although on the number of emigrants who had taken refuge in the woods, in consequence of their villages having been burned down by the Cossacks, several had died, as might have been expected under the circumstances, my informants had no knowledge of the case of as many as 1,500 families having died of starvation at any one particular spot.

However, an incident which has been related to me by the Abazian Chief Tatu Bey, of the village of Mookon Stoorka, can be identified as that reported, with amplification, to my correspondent of Soukoum Kaleh.

Tatu Bey, who, I may add, wears a Turkish decoration, is, of all my informants, the one who lived nearest Adler.

He stated to me that there were no Abazians residing in the vicinity of that locality, but that there was a Circassian village numbering about 1,000 souls; that its inhabitants having rebelled, and a strong force of Cossacks having been sent against them, they had taken refuge in the woods with their cattle, and with what else they could carry with them; that their village had been burned down, and themselves surrounded by the Cossacks in the woods, in which they had to live for about two months; that part of these Circassians had been killed in fighting, part had been captured by the Russians, and many had died through exposure and privation; that he could not state the proportion in each case, but that he knew that the whole of those remaining, and who had emigrated to Samsoon, was about 500 souls.

There being no doubt that if as many as 1,500 families, or about 7,000 people, had died of starvation at Adler, the whole population of the Caucasus, or, at all events, that neighbouring the locality in question, would have been acquainted with the fact, I must consider as conclusive the foregoing negative evidence furnished to me by parties who are far from being friendly to Russia.

I hasten, therefore, to correct the exaggeration which I have now personally ascertained to exist in the private letter addressed to me from Soukoum Kaleh on the 21st June last, and to reduce, by giving the above details, the incident to its real value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 102.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1143.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1877.*

THE Porte has been asked by the Austrian and German Ambassadors, in the name of their Governments, to permit the Russian military authorities to bring through Turkish territory cargoes of timber from the Upper Danube for the purpose of constructing field ambulances in Bulgaria for the Russian sick and wounded. No limitation is placed upon the quantity required. The request, I am informed, comes from Prince Gortchakow. The Porte has refused to grant it, suspecting that the timber may be used for other purposes than that specified. At the same time, it expresses its readiness to consent to the introduction into the Russian lines of clothing, bedding, medicines, or any articles of that nature for the use of the sick and wounded; but it is naturally unwilling to give so important an advantage to its enemy as that of being able to obtain the materials for the construction of buildings, which may be used for other objects than for the hospitals, and which, even if applied solely to that use, would relieve the Russians from one of the most serious causes of embarrassment in a winter campaign in Bulgaria. Moreover, the villages in the country occupied by the Russians afford abundant shelter unless they have been destroyed, and there is an ample supply of wood in it.

Server Pasha asked Count Zichy and Prince Reuss whether the other neutral Powers had joined in the request which they had been instructed to make. They were unable, or unwilling, his Excellency says, to answer the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 103.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1147.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 29, 1877.*

THE Greek Minister sent his Secretary of Legation, M. Kalergi, yesterday to tell me that he feared that the relations between Greece and the Porte were "très tendues." The Turkish Government had now demanded the recall of the Greek Consul at Canea, in Crete, because he had refused to give up an Hellenic subject. Even if it were established that the person in question had no right to Greek nationality, but was an Ottoman subject, the Governor of Crete could not demand his surrender, as according to the understanding between Turkey and Greece, no person claiming Greek protection could be interfered with unless he were first clearly proved not to be a Greek subject. Consequently the Porte had no right to complain of the Greek Consul at Canea, and the Hellenic Government would certainly not comply with the demand of the Porte for his recall.

I asked M. Kalergi whether the Greek Government pretended that any person who might claim Greek protection was entitled to it until absolute proofs were produced that he was not an Hellenic subject, and whether he was aware that after the demand of the Governor-General of Crete for the surrender of the person in question, the Consul had concealed him, and had assisted him in joining a revolutionary meeting in the island, with very compromising papers?

M. Kalergi replied to the first question, that such was the agreement between the Porte and the Greek Government; with regard to the second, he said that he was not informed of the facts to which I had referred. He then went on to say that

M. Coundouriotí wished me to know that the Greek Government had of late serious cause of complaint against the Porte. It could not obtain the redress or satisfaction to which it was entitled in the cases he had brought to the notice of the Turkish Government. Amongst them there was that of the attempt to assault the Greek Consul at Adrianople, and the attack upon the house of the Greek Consul at Larissa. I told M. Kalergi that the affair at Adrianople appeared from the reports that I had received to have been very much exaggerated, and scarcely afforded grounds for a demand for redress or satisfaction from the Turkish Government. That as to the alleged attack on the Greek Consul's house at Larissa, nothing appeared to be known of it at the Porte, but Server Pasha had informed me that he had ordered strict inquiries to be made into the matter, and was quite ready to do all that was just and proper in it. I had not, I added, received any report in the case from the British Vice-Consul. If it had been one of the gravity assigned to it, I should most probably have heard something of it.

M. Kalergi ended by saying that M. Coundouriotí hoped that I would support him in his representations to the Porte, and by asking me what answer he should return to the communication he had been instructed to make to me. I told him that I regretted to hear that the relations between Greece and Turkey were such as he had described them to be; that M. Coundouriotí was aware that I had done all in my power to promote a friendly understanding between them; that I had supported M. Coundouriotí in all his just demands on the Porte, but that I could not conscientiously do so when those demands were not, in my opinion, fair and reasonable; and that I would continue to do my best to smooth away any difficulties that might be apprehended between the two countries.

I have again urged upon Server Pasha the great importance of not giving cause to Greece of accusing Turkey of being unfriendly to her, and of provoking hostilities, as the Hellenic Government would, no doubt, gladly avail itself of any pretence to put Turkey in the wrong before Europe, and to make her appear as the aggressor. I have further communicated to his Excellency the substance of Mr. Wyndham's telegram to your Lordship of yesterday, to the effect that Greece intended *de facto* to remain at peace with Turkey.

The Porte, on the other hand, complains that the Greek Government is still secretly encouraging and conniving at the invasion of Turkish territory by bands of armed men, and that such a band has recently crossed the Greek frontier into Epirus, commanded by one Skaltcho Yani, who had been arrested near Missolonghi on suspicion of being about to make this expedition, a promise having been given that he should be punished if the suspicion proved true, and was subsequently allowed to escape and to place himself at the head of it by the Greek authorities.

Photiades Bey telegraphed on the 25th ultimo to the Porte that M. Tricoupi himself had informed him that Skaltcho Yani had crossed into Epirus with an armed band, promising that an inquiry should be instituted into the conduct of the officer who had charge of Yani and had permitted him to escape.

The Porte is, however, still very much irritated against the Greek Government, and is undoubtedly making preparations in case it should be attacked, or should consider it necessary to take the first step. It is sending a large number of Albanians and other irregulars to the Greek frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 104.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1148. Confidential.) *Therapia, September* 29, 1877.

My Lord,

MR. WYNDHAM, in his telegram to your Lordship of the 26th instant, states that Photiades Bey showed him a note (? a despatch) from Server Pasha, expressing satisfaction at the assurances given by the Greek Government as to control over Committees. I think that Mr. Wyndham has not quite understood the purport of Server Pasha's despatch. The following is the statement made to me by his Excellency:—

"Photiades Bey informed the Porte on the August that M. Tricoupi had told him that the Hellenic Government had succeeded in taking the direction of the Committees ('était parvenu à prendre en main la direction des Comités'). Photiades Bey added that M. Tricoupi had been unable to disguise the great responsibility that would fall upon the Greek Ministry if, in the face of this success, the Committees continued to carry on their proceedings as before. The Porte then directed Photiades Bey to tell M. Tricoupi that it took act ('qu'elle prenait acte') of his declaration. Photiades Bey telegraphed on the 28th ultimo that he had obeyed his instructions, and that, in communicating them to M. Tricoupi, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs replied that his declaration relating to the Committees was to be considered as a communication which did not constitute an engagement on the part of the Greek Government exceeding the limits of its international obligations ('que sa précédente déclaration avait le caractère d'une information qui ne constituait pas pour le Gouvernement Grec un engagement dépassant les limites de ses obligations internationales'), and that he had no intention of rendering himself officially responsible to the Porte for the conduct of the Committees, for any such engagement would, in his opinion, be in opposition to the dignity and independence of his country."

I am under the impression that Server Pasha has not "expressed satisfaction" at the assurances of M. Tricoupi with reference to the Committees. His Excellency has merely intended to convey to the Greek Minister his satisfaction that the Greek Government has them under its control, and renders itself responsible for their proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 105.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1149. Secret.) *Therapia, September* 30, 1877.

My Lord,

THERE is a strong party at the Porte and in the Palace against Mehemet Ali Pasha, the Commander of the Turkish army on the Danube. Some persons believe that the dislike and jealousy of him are founded upon the fact of his having been a Christian, although he came to Turkey in his youth, and has since professed Mahommedanism. It is said that he is too prone to take the advice of foreigners, and has too many foreign officers about him, instead of acting like Osman Pasha, who relies entirely upon himself and the religious and patriotic spirit of his troops, and has therefore defeated the enemy. He is accused of not having followed up his victories, and of having, by the slowness of his movements after the battles of Karahassankoui and Katselevo, allowed the Russians time to receive their reinforcements unmolested, and to fortify very strong positions on the Yantra. There may be some grounds for this charge, but, judging from Colonel Lennox's reports to me, Mehemet Ali Pasha had neither a sufficient commissariat nor the necessary transport for making a vigorous offensive movement, and following up the Russians after their defeats.

An attempt is being made to get the Sultan to recall him and to replace him by Suleiman Pasha, who appears to have many friends and supporters in Constantinople actively engaged in intrigues in his favour. His Majesty, I learn from a good source, is personally unwilling to make the change suggested to him. He is well disposed towards Mehemet Ali Pasha, and is now inclined to think that Suleiman Pasha has shown bad generalship, and has recklessly sacrificed some of his best troops by his hitherto fruitless attack on the Russian positions in the Shipka Pass. But His Majesty is, at the same time, unwilling to take the responsibility of acting against the advice of his Ministers, who, it seems, are for the most part in favour of replacing Mehemet Ali Pasha by Suleiman Pasha.

This change may lead to serious consequences should Suleiman Pasha take the command with the intention of attacking the Russians at all hazards. He is an obstinate man, and desirous of doing something to distinguish himself, with the view to becoming Minister of War. A rash and ill-considered attempt on his part to dislodge the Russians from their strong positions on the Yantra might lead to a disaster to the Turkish arms, and perhaps even to the fall of Rustchuk. Such is the opinion of Colonel Lennox, who urgently deprecates any interference from Constantinople with Mehemet Ali Pasha's plan, which appears now to be to act for the present on the defensive, and to fall back on the River Lom, occupying the line of Karahassankoui and Katselevo,—said to be one of great strength,—which the Turkish army is believed to be able to hold against any forces the Czarevitch could bring against it.

The Russians have received reinforcements which, it is supposed, raise their numbers on the Yantra considerably above those of the Turkish army before them on the Lom. They are stated to have 112 battalions, and to have erected very strong works of defence.

If these battalions are at full strength, they would, according to Colonel Lennox, amount to about 110,000 infantry, whilst the 118 battalions of Mehemet Ali Pasha, 20 of which are required at Rustchuk, are, in his opinion, very weak, consisting on an average of not more than 550 men each, making a total of 65,000 men in all.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 106.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1150.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1877.*

FOR several months last spring the Protestant Armenian community at Ismid (Nicomedia) was exposed to much vexation and annoyance from the "Orthodox" Armenians, who are in the habit of persecuting the dissidents from their creed.

The Protestant chapel and school were shamefully defiled, the Bibles and books stolen from them and destroyed, the windows and furniture broken, &c. The community complained to the local Turkish authorities, who commenced an inquiry, but subsequently abandoned it, probably under the influence of some of the leading Armenians of the place.

The principal instigator of these disgraceful proceedings was believed to be a "hertchej," or priest, whose sons, with some other boys, appear to have been the offenders.

The American missionaries connected with the Protestant Mission at Nicomedia complained to the Armenian Patriarch, who promised that an investigation should be made, that the boys should be punished, and that the chapel and school which had been closed for some months should be cleansed, and the damages repaired by the "Orthodox." These promises not having been kept, and the American missionaries and the Protestant pastor having appealed to me to assist them, I sent Dragoman Mariniteh to the Patriarch to inform his Holiness that it would give me much pain to bring to the notice of the Porte so discreditable an act of Christian persecution, but that I should consider it my duty to do so unless the promises that he had made were carried out without further delay.

His Holiness, I am happy to say, accepted my representations in good part, and at once gave orders that the boys should be punished, that the chapel and school should be cleaned and repaired at the expense of the Armenian "Orthodox" community, and that the Protestants should not be molested in future. The "Vakil" of the Protestants, the American missionaries, and the Protestant pastors of Nicomedia are now satisfied, and have thanked me for what I have been able to do for them.

I trust that there will be no further complaints of this kind from Ismid, and that the rival sects will henceforth live in brotherly relations. I merely mention this occurrence as an instance of the spirit of persecution prevailing among Christian communities in Turkey, which it frequently requires Mussulman interference to repress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 107.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1151. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1877.*

SIR AUGUSTUS PAGET, in his despatch to your Lordship No. 336 of the 8th ultimo, transmitted to me in your Lordship's No. 542 of the 20th ultimo, states that Signor Tornielli did not quite deny that a certain coldness existed, at the present moment, in the relations between the Italian and Turkish Governments, although there was no special reason for it, except the way in which the Porte had dealt with the question of the breach ade of the Black Sea.

Sir Augustus adds that Signor Melegari, to whom he afterwards spoke on the matter, treated it in a less serious manner. I have had occasion to mention to your Lordship that the Italian Minister at the Porte had more than once received instructions from Signor

Tornielli conceived in a spirit very hostile to Turkey. Count Corti has himself complained to me, confidentially, on the subject, and has admitted to me that Signor Tornielli is a strong Russian partizan, and would lose no occasion of showing his hostility to Turkey.

In some instances Count Corti's instructions appeared to him so unreasonable that he remonstrated against them, and even declined to act upon them. In the case alluded to by Count Tornielli of the two Italian vessels, now lying at Taganrog, Count Corti represented, I believe, to his Government that a demand could not be fairly pressed upon the Porte for permission for their departure, as it would constitute a precedent which would justify similar demands from other Powers, and render the blockade ineffective.

In another despatch, No. 340 of the 10th ultimo, Sir Augustus Paget states that Signor Melegari mentioned that as soon as he had learnt the massacre of Greek Christians at Kavarna, which had been brought before him by the Greek Government, he had at once instructed the Italian Minister at Constantinople to point out to the Turkish Government the horror which such outrages must inevitably and invariably create, and the injury which must result to the Turkish cause throughout the world, if the war was not conducted by the Turkish troops on the principles of modern civilization. I refer to this matter as an instance of the unscrupulous manner in which the Greek Government endeavours to influence European Governments, and European public opinion against Turkey and in its own favour. The facts connected with the excesses committed by the Circassians at Kavarna are fully known to your Lordship from the reports of Captain Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," Vice-Consul Dalziel, Mr. Young (the representative of the Stafford House Committee), and other trustworthy persons who visited the places immediately after the occurrences alluded to by Signor Melegari, in order to make inquiries with respect to them on the spot. There was no "massacre of Greek Christians," and the stories of tortures, outrages, and cruelties committed upon Greek girls, priests, and other persons which were published by the Athens newspapers, appear to have been invented either by the Greek Consul at Varna, or perhaps even by the Greek Government itself, who brought them to the notice of foreign Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 108.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1152. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1877.*

COUNT ZICHY, in speaking to me of his private audience of the Sultan, described to me in the warmest terms the favourable impression which His Majesty had made upon him. He praised the excessive modesty and moderation with which His Majesty had alluded to the war and to the successes of his armies, and the sincere grief that he expressed at a war which was causing so much misery and bloodshed, and into which he declared that he had been forced against his will. The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador has assured me that he is highly satisfied with his interview with His Majesty, and he has so informed his Government I believe.

On the other hand, persons about the Sultan have expressed to me their surprize at the altered tone of Count Zichy, and have told me that the Sultan was much gratified by the friendly and sympathizing language of his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 109.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1154.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 1, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to state that, in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 524 of the 17th ultimo, I have brought to the notice of the Porte the correspondence that has passed between Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran and

the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the outrages by Persian Koords on the Armenian Christians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 110.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1155.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 1, 1877.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 488 of the 1st ultimo, received to-day, I have the honour to inclose copies of despatches which, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I have addressed to Colonel Lennox, Captain Fife, and Consul Blunt, impressing upon them the expediency of testing, as far as lies in their power, the accuracy of reports which may reach them with respect to acts of cruelty, outrage, or pillage committed upon the Mohammedan population in districts occupied by the Russian forces, and of endeavouring to ascertain by their own investigation how far those which are received and officially published are free from exaggeration, and are borne out by the actual facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Mr. Layard to Consul Blunt.

Therapia, October 1, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE to impress upon you the importance when you report to this Embassy, or to Her Majesty's Government, any cruelties, excesses, or acts of pillage alleged to have been committed on the Mussulman population in districts occupied by the Russian forces, of taking every means in your power to test the accuracy of the information on the subject that may reach you. You will also endeavour to ascertain by your own investigation how far the reports which are received officially and published are free from exaggeration, and borne out by the actual facts.

You should instruct the Vice-Consuls and Consular Agents under your Consular jurisdiction in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

*Mr. Layard to Colonel Lennox.**

Therapia, October 1, 1877.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to impress upon you the expediency of testing, as far as lies in your power, the accuracy of the reports which may reach you on the subject of acts of cruelty, outrage, or pillage committed on the Mussulman population in districts occupied by the Russian forces, and of endeavouring to ascertain by your own investigations how far those which are received and officially published are free from exaggeration and are borne out by the actual facts. I should feel obliged by your giving instructions in this sense to any British officers who may be on the scene of the present conflict.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* A similar letter was addressed to Captain Fife.

No. 111.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1156.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 1, 1877.

M. COUNDOURIOTI called upon me yesterday to repeat what he had directed his Secretary of Legation, M. Kalergi, to say to me, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1147 of the 20th ultimo. I replied to him in the same way that I had done to M. Kalergi, expressing my wish and readiness to exert at all times such influence as I might have at the Porte to prevent any misunderstanding arising between Turkey and Greece.

M. Coundourioti was good enough to say that he fully recognized the help I had already given him in settling several questions that had arisen between the two countries. He assured me that his own personal desire was to do his utmost to maintain friendly relations between them, and that with this object he had even refrained from making some remonstrances to the Porte that he had been instructed from Athens to make. M. Tricoupi, he added, was equally desirous to avoid misunderstandings with the Porte.

But, M. Coundourioti went on to say, the Turkish Government seemed determined not to listen to the just grievances and complaints of his Government, and thus to quarrel with Greece. It had demanded the recall of the Greek Consul at Canea; it had not yet taken any steps to punish the authors of the attack on the Greek Consulate at Larissa; it was continually accusing, without reason, the Greek Government of conniving at the departure of armed bands for the invasion of Turkish territory; and it was now sending numbers of Bashi-Bazouks and irregulars to the Greek frontiers. It was evident, therefore, that it was not Turkey that had a right to complain of unfriendliness on the part of Greece, but Greece that had good grounds to believe that Turkey sought to quarrel with her.

I ventured to point out to M. Coundourioti that he had not fairly stated the facts of the case. The Porte could not shut its eyes to what was passing in Greece. The Greek Government was increasing its military forces, large supplies of cannon, rifles, and ammunition were being received at the Piræus and elsewhere; bands, not armed with the weapons usual to brigands, but with American and other arms, such as are supplied to regular troops, were constantly crossing the frontiers, under the command of persons who were not mere robber chiefs; every opportunity was taken to excite public opinion in Greece against Turkey by the publication of the most exaggerated, and often unfounded, reports of outrages committed upon her Greek population; and the revolutionary committees were permitted to carry on their work with the apparent sanction of the Government. Could he, I asked, be surprised that the Porte viewed these proceedings with the greatest alarm and suspicion, and as a proof that Greece was preparing the means for attacking Turkey as soon as she was ready to do so. The only assurances that the Greek Government would give were that it was not going to do so at present.

Neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Porte had asked Greece to declare that she would never make war upon Turkey, as M. Tricoupi seemed to believe, but that she should not take part in the present struggle between Turkey and Russia, and would preserve a strict neutrality during its continuance, which was a very different thing.

I regretted, I said, as much as any one could do, that the Porte was sending Bashi-Bazouks, Albanians, and other irregulars to the Greek frontiers. I had already reports of excesses committed by these lawless troops, and had made representations to the Turkish Government on the subject. But it must not be forgotten that Turkey was engaged in a resistance to the invasion of the armies of a powerful Empire, which demanded the whole of her military resources, and that she was compelled to have recourse to such means in her power as might enable her to meet, at the same time, an invasion from Greece, which might have the effect of seriously embarrassing her. It was monstrous, I said, to suppose that in the circumstances in which Turkey was placed she would wantonly attack Greece, and add another enemy to those she had already to contend against. It therefore depended upon Greece, and not upon Turkey, to avoid a war between the two countries.

M. Coundourioti did not controvert what I had stated, merely observing that the armed bands which had crossed into Turkey had done so without the knowledge of the Greek Government, and that immediate steps had been taken to stop them, and to arrest and punish those who formed them. He admitted that he had received no information direct from Larissa as to the alleged attack by Bashi-Bazouks on the Greek Consulate there, and had only learnt it by a telegram from Athens. He added that he had seen the

telegrams which had been sent by Server Pasha to the authorities at Larissa on the subject, and that he was perfectly satisfied with them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 112.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1157.) *Therapia, October* 1, 1877.

My Lord,

ALI SUAVI, the Director of the Turkish Lycéum, or college, in Pera, and a well-known Softa, whom I have mentioned in former despatches to your Lordship as a friend of Mr. Butler Johnstone, having written a letter to the Turkish newspaper, the "Vakit," very abusive of England, the Sultan sent the Grand Master of the Ceremonies, Kiamil Bey, to me to-day to express his regret that a person in public employment should have been guilty of so grave an impropriety, and to inform me that he had given orders that Ali Suavi should be severely reprimanded for the offence. His Majesty begged me, at the same time, to believe that the sentiments expressed by Ali Suavi were not those of the Turkish people, who were grateful for all that England had done for Turkey, and looked upon her as their true friend.

I begged Kiamil Bey to thank the Sultan for his gracious message, and to tell His Majesty that I attached no importance to such foolish writings as those of Ali Suavi; only regretting that the person from whom they came, being at the head of a great public educational establishment, was so ignorant and ill-informed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 113.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1158.) *Therapia, October* 1, 1877.

My Lord,

SEVERAL American gentlemen connected with the Protestant missions in Bulgaria having complained to me that no distinction was made by the Turkish authorities and troops in dealing with the Bulgarians suspected of complicity in the insurrection, between those of the Greek Church and those of the Protestant faith, who had shown themselves on all occasions loyal and law-abiding subjects of the Sultan, I availed myself of an opportunity to bring the matter to the notice of the Grand Vizier.

His Highness readily admitted that the conduct of the Protestant Bulgarians had been such as I had described, and promised to give instructions that they should be in future protected from all vexation and unjust accusations. I understand that some of the Protestant Bulgarians at Loftcha, and at one or two other places, have been killed. These inoffensive and well-conducted people are exposed to a double danger. The Turkish troops and authorities cannot distinguish between them and the Orthodox, and they are victims of the persecution and vengeance of their own community from which they have seceded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 114.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1159.) *Therapia, October* 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a list, which I have received from Vice-Consul Dupuis, of 41 Bulgarians who were executed under martial law in Adrianople and the district towns, between the 17th and 25th September, for alleged crimes against the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 114.

List of Bulgarians executed under Martial Law in Adrianople since September 17, 1877.

Monday, September 24.

1. Popé Kostanch, of Yenidscher district, Kyzilagatch, age 45; leaves widow and 4 children.
2. Popé Dimitri, of Yenidscher, Kyzilagatch, age 30; leaves widow and 2 children.
3. Dimitri Miho, of Yenidscher, age 35, labourer; widow and 2 children.
4. Yanko Koleff, of Yenidscher, age 35, labourer; widow and 3 children.
5. Sotri Tanasi, of Yenidscher, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
6. Giorghi Veli, of Yenidscher, age 40, labourer; widow and 5 children.
7. State Stefo, of Yenidscher, age 40, labourer; widow and 5 children.
8. Nedelko Velo, of Yenidscher, age 25, workman; not married.

Twenty-eight men, names not given, executed in Fené Dimitika, Kirlil-Burgas, &c.

Tuesday, September 25.

37. Jani Dimoff, of Kirklissia, bookseller, age 35; not married.
38. Giorghi Vassiloff, of Slimnia, age 25.
39. Kotro Pelioff, of Karabunar, age 40; leaves widow and 3 children.
40. Dimitri Giorghi, of Moustafa Pasha, age 35; railway switchman.
41. Giorghi, of Tchirpan, age 28; not married.

Three men, names not given, executed in district towns.

Total, 44.

(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Adrianople, September 26, 1877.

No. 115.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1160.) *Therapia, October* 2, 1877.

My Lord,

ONE of the Ulema, Ahmed Tevfic Effendi, called upon me last week, and placed in my hands an address in Turkish to the British nation, which he requested me to transmit to your Lordship. He stated that there was a very general desire amongst all classes of Mahommedans in Turkey, and especially amongst the Ulema and Softas, that the English people should be made acquainted with the feelings of gratitude of the Turkish population towards them, and with its deep sense of the spirit of justice and humanity shown by the great majority of the British nation towards Turkey in her present difficulties caused by an unjust war into which she had been forced. He said that the persons who had been selected to sign the address were authorised to do so by great numbers of the leading Mussulmans of Constantinople, and that they truly represented public opinion on this subject. I am disposed to believe that such is the case.

I have the honour to inclose the original address with a translation of it, and also the translation of a letter to myself requesting me to forward it.

I had a long conversation with Ahmed Tevfic Effendi, and was much struck by his just, moderate, and liberal views, the more remarkable as coming from a distinguished member of the body of Ulema. He admitted that there was dissatisfaction amongst the Mahommedans with the manner in which public affairs were administered, and with the influences supposed to exist outside of the Ministry. But he said very emphatically that the Turkish people had great confidence in the character and intentions of the Sultan and in the Parliament, which they believed would act as a restraint upon misgovernment by enabling the nation to express its grievances and demand redress for them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Address.

(Traduction.)

IL est un fait certain et positif que nous avons toujours attaché une grande importance aux liens d'affection et d'amitié qui depuis plusieurs siècles ont heureusement subsisté entre l'honorable nation Anglaise et notre Gouvernement et nation, liens que nous tâchons de conserver intacts comme un dépôt sacré qui nous est échu en héritage de nos ancêtres. Il est de même évident que le monde Islamique, en général, et la nation Ottomane en particulier, feront un devoir de perpétuer ces sentiments qui les rattachent ainsi à la nation Anglaise.

Cependant, lorsqu'à l'occasion de la révolte de la Serbie, du Monténégro, et de la Bulgarie, qui n'eut lieu que grâce à l'assistance et aux moyens fournis par notre ennemi, Mr. Gladstone et ses acolytes eurent provoqué des "meetings" où ils ont entrepris de faire tant contre notre Gouvernement que contre notre nation une série d'imputations mensongères et cela dans un style dont un Ottoman ne daignerait jamais se servir, cette circonstance avait réellement indisposé tous les Osmanlis. Le susdit Mr. Gladstone et ses acolytes non-seulement y ont exprimé leur assentiment à ce que les droits sacrés des Ottomans fussent foulés aux pieds, mais ils les ont traités de barbares.

Or, les mœurs des Osmanlis aussi bien que leur religion repoussent cette appellation. Il y a même un proverbe Turc qui dit qu'il n'est point permis de frapper celui qui demande grâce.

Notre assertion peut être constatée par le témoignage de tous les Anglais qui, résidant en Turquie, et étant amis de la vérité sans aucun alliage de fanatisme, se sont rendu compte de la condition réelle tant des Musulmans que des Chrétiens.

Nous savons tout de même que Mr. Gladstone et ses réunions ne forment qu'une minorité insignifiante. La grande majorité de la nation Anglaise, grâce au sens droit et solide qui la distingue, n'a pas été induite en erreur par ces imputations et ces tromperies. D'ailleurs, les événements se sont chargés de lui prouver que son ancien ami a été calomnié, et que la justice est de son côté. C'est pourquoi le cœur des Musulmans n'a pu qu'être rempli de joie en présence des efforts nobles et charitables déployés d'une manière suivie et constante par la nation Anglaise, pour soulager les souffrances de nos malheureux compatriotes. Témoins le Comité de Stafford House, formé sous la présidence du Duc de Sutherland, pour venir en aide aux femmes et aux enfants Musulmans qui ont été victimes de la persécution de notre ennemi ainsi qu'aux soldats blessés; la Société dite de Secours et de Charité pour la Turquie, fondée sous la présidence de la Baronne Burdett-Coutts; la Société Nationale pour Assistance aux Malades et aux Blessés tenue sous la présidence du Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay pour porter secours aux malades et aux blessés de la guerre; la Société d'Assistance Israélite réunie sous la présidence du Baron Rothschild pour secours aux blessés; et enfin la Société des Hôpitaux Anglais formée sous la présidence de Lady Strangford et de Lord Blantyre dans le but de soigner les soldats malades.

Les Musulmans n'ont pas été moins touchés des marques de haute sollicitude journalière prodiguées par son Excellence Mr. Layard, Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, ainsi que par Mrs. Layard, aux expatriés malades, blessés, et nécessiteux afin de pourvoir à leur habillement et à tout ce dont ils ont un besoin absolu. Ainsi, au nom de tous les Osmanlis nous en offrons nos remercîments à la nation Anglaise, et nous la prions d'agréer l'assurance de nos sentiments de gratitude comme un gage de dévouement sincère.

(Signé) MEHEMET, *Troisième Chambellan de Sa Majesté le Sultan.*
NEDJIB, *Juge* (*Cazi-Asker.*)
LATIF, *ditto.*
AHMET TEVFIC, *Professeur.*
AHMET PASHA, *Général de Brigade.*
TAHIR, *Colonel.*
MOHAMET, *Major.*
HAIRÉ, *Capitaine.*
MOUSTAPHA, *Chef des Marchands.*
HADJI AHMET, *Chef de la Corporation des Astardji* (*Vendeur des Doublures*).
HADJI AALI, *Chef de la Corporation des Libraires.*
HIDAGET, *de la Corporation des Yaglikdji* (*Vendeurs des Mouchoirs*).

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

Letter addressed to Mr. Layard, inclosing the foregoing Address.

(Traduction.)

NOUS avons l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence une adresse de remercîments de la part de tous les Osmanlis envers la nation Anglaise, qui leur a donné des preuves marquantes de son affection et de sa bienveillance en venant au secours des expatriés et des blessés. Tous les Osmanlis prient votre Excellence et ils lui recommandent de transmettre cette adresse à Lord Derby, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, avec prière qu'elle soit publiée par les journaux.

Le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Septembre*, 1877.

Les Signatures de ceux qui représentent la nation Ottomane.

(Signé) MEHEMET, *Troisième Chambellan de Sa Majesté le Sultan.*
NEDJIB, *Juge* (*Cazi-Asker*).
LATIF, *ditto.*
AHMET TEVFIC, *Professeur.*
AHMET PASHA, *Général de Brigade.*
TAHIR, *Colonel.*
MOHAMET, *Major.*
HAIRÉ, *Capitaine.*
MOUSTAPHA, *Chef des Marchands.*
HADJI AHMET, *Chef de la Corporation des Astardji* (*Vendeurs des Doublures*).
HADJI AALI, *Chef de la Corporation des Libraires.*
HIDAGET, *de la Corporation des Yaglikdji* (*Vendeurs des Mouchoirs*).

No. 116.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 1163.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 2, 1877.

IN my despatch No. 1132 of the 26th ultimo, I mentioned that the Greek Government complained that the Porte was settling Circassian families in Macedonia contrary to its understanding with Greece. I have succeeded in obtaining copy of the note addressed by Safvet Pasha to M. Coundouriotí on the 27th September of last year (copy inclosed), upon which I understand the assertion of the Greek Government that the Porte is violating its engagement on this subject is founded. Your Lordship will perceive that the declaration made by Safvet Pasha is that the Porte will not for the future establish Circassian colonies in the Vilayet of Janina, comprising Epirus and Thessaly, nor in adjoining places from which there is an easy passage into this vilayet. It can scarcely, I think, be justly contended that the whole of the Province of Macedonia is comprised within this definition, or that Circassian colonies would include Tatar refugees from the Dobrudcha.

I am also able to send your Lordship a copy of a despatch from the Porte to Photiades Bey on this matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I am informed that the inclosed instructions to Photiades Bey contain the last communications made on this subject to the Hellenic Government, and that no reply has been received from it.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 116.

Safvet Pasha to M. Coundouriotis.

Le 27 *Septembre*, 1876.

J'AI reçu la note responsive que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 28 Août, relativement au projet attribué au Gouvernement Impérial d'établir des colonies Circassiennes le long de la frontière Hellénique.

En me référant à mes communications précédentes à ce sujet, j'ai l'honneur de vous déclarer que la Sublime Porte a décidé de n'établir à l'avenir de ces colonies ni dans le Vilayet de Janina qui comprend l'Épire et la Thessalie, ni dans les localités circonvoisines, d'où l'on pourrait aisément passer dans ce vilayet.

J'aime à espérer que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique voudra bien, lorsqu'il aura reçu communication de cette mesure, reconnaître combien nous tenons à faire disparaître jusqu'à l'ombre d'un doute sur notre désir de maintenir et de consolider les relations de bon voisinage qui existent si heureusement entre les deux Etats.

Veuillez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 116.

Safvet Pasha to Photiades Bey.

Le 25 Octobre, 1876.

J'AI reçu le rapport que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 4 courant pour me faire part des observations de M. Contostavlos sur notre dernière communication relative au projet attribué au Gouvernement Impérial de s'établir des colonies Circassiennes le long de la frontière Hellénique.

Je regrette de ne pouvoir souscrire à la demande de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce. La Macédoine constitue, même géographiquement parlant, une expression vague que le Gouvernement Impérial ne saurait s'en servir sans inconvénient pour indiquer les limites dans lesquelles il croit devoir restreindre ses engagements en ce qui concerne l'établissement des familles Circassiennes.

D'ailleurs le Gouvernement Impérial ne voit pas la nécessité de s'engager dans une voie qui ne lui paraît ni opportune ni justifiée, il a fait ce qu'il a cru suffisant pour mettre* à l'abri de toute colonisation Circassienne. Le Cabinet d'Athènes lui-même n'a pu jamais entendre, croyon nous, réclamer autre chose.

En vous priant de vous exprimer en ce sens auprès du Ministre Grec je saisis.

No. 117.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1164.)

Therapia, October 3, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1076 of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of the note addressed by Server Pasha to the Greek Minister in reply to his communication on the subject of the Circular of the Porte, notifying the closing of the passage of Prevesa into the Gulf of Arta after sunset, a copy of which I had the honour of transmitting to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Server Pasha to M. Coundouriotis.

Sublime Porte, le 25 Septembre, 1877.

J'AI reçu la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le $\frac{24 \text{ Août}}{5 \text{ Septembre}}$ au sujet de la mesure prise par la Sublime Porte à l'effet de suspendre durant la nuit l'accès du Détroit de Prévésa, mesure que vous considérez comme portant atteinte aux droits que découlent pour le Gouvernement Hellénique de sa situation de Puissance riveraine du Golfe d'Arta, et des stipulations de l'Acte de Londres de 1832.

Je suis convaincu, M. l'Envoyé, qu'un examen plus attentif de la question qui a éveillé les susceptibilités du Gouvernement Hellénique lui démontrera que la Sublime Porte n'a point excédé par la mesure précitée les prérogatives qui lui appartiennent comme propriétaire des deux rives du détroit.

Le Gouvernement Impérial reconnait, comme il a toujours reconnu, le droit pour les bâtiments Grecs, de franchir librement le Détroit de Prévésa, soit à l'entrée soit à la sortie du Golfe d'Arta, ainsi qu'il a été établi par une stipulation spéciale de l'Acte de 1832,

* *Sic. In orig.*, "les provinces limitrophes Grecques" probably omitted.

mais il constate en même temps que les Puissances Garantes, en laissant à l'Empire Ottoman la propriété du Promontoire de Punta, ont pris soin de déclarer que le but de cette disposition spéciale était de permettre à la Sublime Porte de compléter la défense de Prévésa et de mieux garantir la sécurité de son commerce.

Cela suppose évidemment que la possession des deux rives doit comporter l'exercice d'une certaine autorité sur le passage; autrement la concession eut été sans objet et serait dès lors tout-à-fait illusive.

Cette autorité implique et comprend un droit de police égal à celui que chaque Etat exerce dans ses propres eaux et la Sublime Porte n'a entendu faire et n'a fait en réalité qu'une application naturelle et logique de cette règle, en limitant, par une mesure de prudence d'ailleurs momentanée, l'accès du détroit aux heures du jour où la surveillance peut s'exercer efficacement.

Lui dénier cette faculté dans les circonstances présentes serait, je le répète, lui enlever le seul avantage que les Puissances ont voulu lui assurer en maintenant dans le domaine de l'Empire le Promontoire de Punta.

Permettez-moi d'espérer, M. l'Envoyé, que ces loyales explications suffiront pour justifier pleinement aux yeux du Gouvernement du Roi la mesure purement réglementaire et de simple police que la Sublime Porte a portée à votre connaissance par sa Circulaire du 25 Août, et qui laisse absolument intact le droit de passage par le Détroit de Prévésa stipulé en faveur des bâtiments Grecs.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERVER.

No. 118.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1165.)

Therapia, October 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I INSTRUCTED Mr. Sandison, who was to see the Grand Vizier yesterday, to urge upon his Highness the great importance of maintaining a good understanding with Greece, and of avoiding any measures which might afford the Hellenic Government an excuse for accusing the Porte of hostile designs against her.

His Highness replied that though the Porte would continue to do its best, so as not to give any uncalled-for provocation to Greece, he could not help thinking that should Greek revolutionary bands continue to invade the Turkish territory it would be impossible for the Porte to persevere in its present peaceful attitude.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 119.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1167.)

Therapia, October 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report received to-day from Mr. Rassam. In a private letter he informs me that he has received much civility and kindness from Rahman Pasha, the Vali of Diarbekir, and the authorities of that city, and of other places that he has visited on his journey, and that they have shown every desire to promote the object of his mission.

I shall take an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Grand Vizier the good conduct of Rahman Pasha and of others favourably mentioned by Mr. Rassam, and I trust that they will be encouraged to persevere in their endeavours to protect the Christians from the Kurds, and in their intention to govern them justly and impartially.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Mr. Rassam to Mr. Layard.

Diarbekir, September 6, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency my arrival here on the 31st ultimo from Aleppo after a journey of ten days from that place.

On my arrival at Birajik on August 24, I was invited by the heads of the different Christian communities of that place, Armenians, Protestants, and Roman Catholics, who gave me a pleasing account of the way the Christians were treated under the good government of their new Kaimakam, Ahmet Nazmi Bey, and of the impartial justice administered to all classes by their Cazee, Mohammed Tefik Effendi. These two functionaries paid me a formal visit soon after my arrival at Birajik, and on returning their call I told them of what I had heard from the heads of the different Christian communities of the place, and thanked them for their praiseworthy conduct in seeing equal justice done to all classes of the Sultan's subjects. The reason I mention to your Excellency the names of these two Turkish officials in particular, is because I feel that in the prevailing excitement between the Christian and Mahommedan population in this country, the safety of the former depends entirely upon the tact and honest administration of justice by the chief Turkish officials.

On my arrival at Swairak on the 28th, the Chiefs of the different Christian communities called likewise upon me, but I was very sorry to learn from them that they were not enjoying the same good treatment under their Governor as their fellow Christians of Birajik were doing. Their ruler had been sent from Kharpoot to act for one who had been dismissed, and as he had never been in such a position before, and knew that his appointment was temporary, he did not trouble himself to see justice done to the maltreatment of the Christians by the Mahommedans. The former complained that they were constantly insulted and abused in the Bazaars and in the streets by their Mahommedan townspeople, who were always threatening to extirpate them as being "Giaours." Having no authority to interfere in such matters, especially as Swairak is not in the Pashalics I am commissioned to visit, I thought a friendly representation to the Acting Kaimakam might do some good, but my informants assured me that, from what they knew of their Governor, my speaking to him on their behalf would do them no good, but might expose them to greater annoyances after I left. It is very unfortunate that the Governors-General of the different vilayets do not appoint at such a time as this proper agents to the provincial towns where there is so much bigotry and fanaticism amongst the Moslem population. I must, however, state that I fear most of the Mahommedan fanaticism is brought on by the demeanour of some of the foolish members of the Christian communities; because, while I was at Swairak, I heard a priest remark, in public, that it was a great shame of the English not to allow Russia to rid the Christians from the Mahommedan yoke. Had any Mahommedan heard him express such a feeling he would have at once proclaimed him as a traitor. I had to point out to him that such language spoken in public might endanger the lives of all the Christians of Swairak.

The day after I arrived here, I called on his Excellency Abd-er-Rahman Pasha, the Governor-General of Diarbekir, who received me very courteously and promised to do everything in his power to render my mission successful. He returned my visit soon afterwards, and he paid me in every respect the honour due to a Representative of the British Government.

I spoke to him on a future occasion about the deplorable state of the country, and the destruction of life and property by the refractory Kurds in this Pashalic. He told me that he had been sent here at a time when his Government was using every effort to obtain military help from all parts of Asiatic Turkey, and there were no regular troops left in this part of Kurdistan to keep the unruly Kurds in check. He had to use every caution and skill to keep the Kurds in order, because he feared that unless they were dealt with with prudence, a rebellion might break out amongst them, which would be very serious just now, when the Sublime Porte, in using every means to resist the advance of the Russians, both in Asia and Europe, would not be able to spare any troops to quell the Kurdish rising. He said, moreover, that he is not leaving the Christians to their fate, but was trying by means of conciliation and firmness to bring the Chiefs of the disturbed districts to justice; and as he found that it was quite impossible for him to stop altogether Kurdish excesses without some regular troops, he had telegraphed to Constantinople for permission to stop a regiment of infantry which is going through this Pashalic from Mosul to Erzeroum. As I found he did not object to my telegraphing to your Excellency to use your influence with the Porte for the same object, I did so on the 3rd instant. Of course,

his Excellency would not like it to be known that I did so with his knowledge, because our conversation was friendly, and did not assume any official form.

The greatest depredations that have occurred in this Pashalic were committed by the Ruskvotan tribe and Bahree Beg, son of Bedr Khan Beg. It was very unfortunate that the Porte sent such a man to this country at a time when the Moslem hatred of the Christian is augmented by the present war with Russia. The Pasha excused his Government on the plea that in such a gigantic war the Porte had to use every means to obtain assistance from its Mahommedan subjects, and as Bahree Bey had the reputation of being very popular in this country, he was deputed to collect a few squadrons of cavalry to act in concert with the forces in Armenia. Instead, however, of his keeping within the legitimate sphere of his mission, he has been trying to enrich himself at the expense of the poor villagers, whom he has been plundering without the distinction of race or creed. As a matter of course, the Christians suffer mostly in these Kurdish ravages.

I hear that the Armenian population of the district of Siliwan have been so much oppressed and maltreated by their Kurdish feudal Chiefs that most of them have deserted their villages, and congregated together in one large place to defend themselves against their common enemy. His Excellency the Vali has seized one of the two refractory Chiefs of that district, and he is in hopes that he will be able to get hold of the other soon. I intend to visit that district of Siliwan on my way to Soort.

With regard to Bahree Bey, his Excellency the Vali has informed me that he had arrested the illicit transactions of this Chief, whom he has ordered to restore what he had taken illegally from the villagers, and, as soon as he did so, he was to leave the country with his volunteers for the seat of war. He hoped that in a few days he would be on his way to Erzeroum.

I am glad to be able to report that the Vali is greatly appreciated by all classes of the Diarbekir communities; and both Christians and Mahommedans respect and esteem him for his impartiality and justice. They all say that Diarbekir has never had such a good and honest Pasha before, and they all hope that the Porte will not allow him to be changed while these unhappy disturbances exist.

It is commonly rumoured that the Christians in the Pashalic of Van have suffered mostly at the hands of their Moslem fellow-countrymen; and if the reports that reach Diarbekir from those parts prove correct, it seems that neither property, life, nor the honour of women, have been spared by the barbarous Kurds in that part of Armenia. I intend, therefore, to proceed to Van as soon as possible, and visit on my way thither the districts of Siliwan, Soort, and Bitlis. I shall then see for myself how far the reports I have heard will prove correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. RASSAM.

No. 120.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

No. 1169.)
Therapia, October 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Sir Arnold Kemball, with respect to the statement made by Consul Zohrab, referred to in my despatch No. 893 of August 2, that orders had been given by the Porte to the commanders of the army in Armenia not to spare any of the male inhabitants above 10 years of age after crossing the Russian frontiers.

As your Lordship will perceive, Sir Arnold Kemball expresses his disbelief that any such orders were given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Head-Quarters Camp, near Kerkhana, September 17, 1877.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 28th ultimo.

Where assertions of the nature contained in Mr. Consul Zohrab's report under reference are so made and so vouched it is of course impossible to prove a negative.

I must accordingly confine myself to the expression of my own belief, that it is not likely that orders, such as are attributed to the Porte, were issued to the Vali of Erzeroum and the military authorities in Armenia for their guidance in the event of their crossing the Russian frontier.

Moukhtar Pasha, I believe, apart from higher motives, is at least sincerely convinced of the impolicy of conniving at the excesses of the troops under his orders, regulars and irregulars, and I have found him ever ready to restrain them with the requisite vigour. I have not equal confidence in Ismail Pasha, but my experience leads me to believe that the authority of the Porte would be exercised, not to encourage, but to check the indulgence which, whether from want of will or want of power, he has undoubtedly extended to the license of his Kurdish irregulars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

No. 121.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 1170.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report addressed to me by Sir A. Kemball upon recent military operations in Armenia. Your Lordship will observe that he calls attention to the deliberate murder of a Mahommedan by a Cossack.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Head-quarters Camp, near Kirkhana, September 17, 1877.*

I SUBJOIN four telegrams, wired by me to your Excellency between 11th and 17th instant.

I am still unable to penetrate the object of the Russian demonstration of the 13th instant. As usual on such occasions, the losses of the Russians are reported to have been very heavy, but they carried off their killed and wounded. Those of the Turks were officially returned as three killed and seventeen wounded. The infantry on either side was scarcely engaged, and the artillery only at long ranges in the way of covering the advance or retreat of cavalry skirmishers.

The only special incident of the day was an undoubted act of atrocity committed by the Cossacks on occupying the village of Jabla, from which they had driven a post of Turkish irregular horse. Finding there an unarmed Mahommedan they put him to death, hacking and mutilating his body in a frightful manner, as has been certified from personal observation by Dr. Casson, one of Lord Blantyre's surgeons.

I must not omit to mention that, on the 12th instant, a party of Bashi-Bazouks and irregulars crossed the Arpachai for the purpose of burning a large solidly-built frontier guard-house, situated over against Arni, and effected their object without serious molestation from the Russian outpost at Kizil-Kilissa. The object of this act was not merely to retaliate the similar destruction of Turkish frontier guard-houses at the beginning of the war, but to deprive the Russian patrols of a safe refuge when winter should set in.

The advance of troops, as reported from different quarters, to menace Ardahan has not had the desired effect of inducing the Russians to evacuate that place. They have, on contrary, reinforced the garrison with three and a-half battalions from Akhalziel and General Oklopp's division before Batoum. The retreat of the Russians from Turkish territory must probably depend upon the successful advance of the right wing under Ismail Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

No. 122.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, September 29, 1877.*

I AM informed by the Vice-Consul of Candia that a certain Arghyraki, Christian Deputy for that town in the two last Cretan General Assemblies, was suddenly arrested one night last week and conveyed on board the Turkish mail-steamer bound for Constantinople. He was regarded by his Christian colleagues in the Assembly as their leader in their endeavours to obtain the sanction of the Porte for the liberal innovations they sought to introduce in the Organic Law, and he had thus naturally drawn on himself the ill-will of the authorities. He had, however, steadily discouraged all schemes tending to insurrection, and was only willing to make use of legal methods in compassing his ends. His arrest has carried dismay in the ranks of the committee still sitting in the neighbouring mountains, as they feel that if they dispersed and returned to their usual avocations, they are liable to be arrested in their turn. An exactly similar act was committed by Réouf Pasha, when Governor of Crete last year, on the person of another Deputy named Constantine Mezzutaki, but his Excellency repented of his act and had him set at liberty again. There appears to be no justification for this illegal proceeding, though it was probably carried out in pursuance of an order from the Porte.

Some of the Moslem peasantry who had deserted their homes some six weeks ago have returned thither again, but the majority still linger in the town and neighbourhood. The Vali informs me that their property has been scrupulously respected by the Christians during their absence, who in many instances have also been careful to look after their live stock.

The authority of the Government in the country districts is becoming more and more relaxed. Deeds of violence and even murders are of frequent occurrence, and few are the cases in which steps are taken to bring the offenders to justice. In many places the people themselves are adopting measures for the suppression of sheep-stealing, which has assumed serious proportions, as it is found that the country police, who are kept without pay, are become remiss in the performance of their duties. They are a long-suffering body of men, and many of them, seeing no hope of recovering their arrears of wages, are anxious to quit the service and return to their home in Albania, but are kept in the Island by force. Throughout the public service generally, indeed, especially among the Christians, who have little or no feeling of patriotism, a great deal of discontent prevails in consequence of the new order cutting down their salaries by one-half, even that pittance being further reduced by its payment in paper-money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 123.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 58. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 2, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 1st October to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the number of irregular troops in Thessaly and the sale of 1,000 revolvers by the Government to the Mahommedan population of Salonica, and muskets to that of Larissa and Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, October 1, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. Vice-Consul Suter reports the arrival at Larissa of 1,200 horse and foot Albanian Bashi-Bazouks ("Gheghas"), some

of whom refused to camp outside the town, and, in seeking for lodgings, attempted to force an entrance into the Greek Vice-Consul's house, but the door resisted their efforts to break it open. No redress whatever was obtained from the authorities, who denied the outrage, although a Chief of Police, Halil Aga, was with the troops, and Mulloosh Aga, Cavass of the British Vice-Consulate, happened to be present.

The following is the number of the irregular troops which have come to Thessaly:—

	No.
At Larissa—	
Horse	200
Foot	300
At Kattrina—	
Horse	140
Foot	400
At Pharsala—	
Horse	16
Foot	90
At Ayah—	
Horse	27
At Tricala—	
Foot	300
At Fenerce and Cardiza—	
Foot	1,100
Horse	400
Total horse and foot "Gheghas"	3,072

Besides these men 1,200 "Zeibecks," (foot irregulars) landed last week at Volo, from Smyrna, and 3,000 more of the same are expected, and 1,200 Albanian "Gheghas" from Debra, so that shortly there will be about 10,000 Bashi-Bazouks over-running the country, some of the very worst characters (Mr. Suter says) distinguished in Turkish annals.

In fear of their lawless doings the bazaars at Larissa remained closed all the time they were in the town, and the interruption to business at this most active season in the retail trade is complained of as of serious import.

The Government here have received 1,000 revolvers from Constantinople, and they have all been sold at Government House to Mussulmans, at the price of 3 megeedees and a half (15s.) a-piece, with 80 rounds of cartridges each. The sale was ostensibly to all indiscriminately, but when Christians applied they were told there were no more to sell.

The Vali has telegraphed for 2,000 more, the original stock at Constantinople having consisted of 15,000 old-fashioned revolvers from America, which the Government has got rid of by selling them to the Turkish population.

Mr. Suter has already reported, and I have transmitted to your Excellency, the distribution of 10,000 muskets and cartridges to the Mussulman population of Thessaly, and that Christian houses have been searched for arms, and, when found, forcibly taken away.

I have thought it my duty to remonstrate with our Vali, Nousrot Pasha, against this arming of the Mussulman population, as a serious danger, since the Government declares its inability to repress excesses for want of regular troops, who are all sent to the war, and there are no effective police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 124.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

Bucharest, October 10, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

INFANTRY of the guard hitherto arrived, about 30,000 (?) men, marched hence for Plevna. Todleben before that place, which, I believe, it is the intention of Russians to surround and starve out, if possible.

Emperor has been ill, but no talk of his returning to Russia.

Sickness increasing; weather terrible.

It is here thought that General Ignatiew is not (?) in disgrace.

Prince of Bavaria here. Evident intention to renew campaign next year. Changes in high command imminent. Grand Duke will probably retain command of army. Wellesley, Emperor's head-quarters, October 8.

No. 124*.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 64. Political.)

Odessa, October 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that I received to-day a private letter dated 27th ultimo, from a gentleman residing at Berdiansk, in which is the following passage:—

"Several Greek ships are loading grain at Taganrog for French and English ports. They are vessels which very lately have arrived from Constantinople. Several others (about fifteen) are expected to arrive and load at the same port. The following is the way in which the affair is managed:—

"The vessels leave Constantinople with papers for Trebizond or some other Turkish port in the Black Sea. In some cases no grain is shipped at the Turkish ports, but in others one lighter full is laden, but in all cases papers *en règle* are obtained from the Custom-house, stating that the cargo has been shipped there. The vessel leaves for Kertch, and if, *en route*, a Turkish cruizer asks any questions, it is stated that stress of weather has driven her eastward. If no cruizer is met with, the ship proceeds to the Azof, loads, returns to the Black Sea, and her papers stating that she has loaded at a Turkish port being in order, she continues her voyage to Constantinople without any risk. Vagliano is the merchant loading at Taganrog.

"Here at Berdiansk one Greek ship, which arrived before the blockade was established, is now loading, and I think she will be followed by two others in the same category, and which wait to see how she succeeds. They, of course, have not the same kind of papers as the other ships."

Mr. Consul Carruthers will doubtless have informed your Lordship of these facts should they be correct; but as he may not have given the same details, I have considered it would interest your Lordship to be made aware of them as they have been presented to me by my correspondent, whom I have every reason to believe thoroughly trustworthy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 125.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 432.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 10, 1877.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Moukhtar Pasha telegraphed last night that he had established his head-quarters at the foot of Alaja Dagh, and that, after five hours artillery engagement, an infantry battle began and was still continuing. Telegrams from Plevna announce that the convoys have entered Plevna, and that the roads are safe, and communications re-established.

No. 126.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 433.)
(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 11, 1877, 1 P.M.

FOLLOWING has been received from Sir A. Kemball, dated yesterday:—

"Monday night Turks had successfully accomplished retirement to old position, about four miles to the rear, on high slope of Alaja Dagh: at daybreak Russians advanced in force, hoping to catch Turks on the move, and attacked from 9 A.M. until dark, but made no impression. They have bivouacked in our old lines from Hadjevali to Kizil Tepe. Further intentions not yet discernible, but no fear. They have attacked on our very strongest side."

No. 127.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 597.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 11, 1877.

I HAVE considered, in communication with the Law Officers of the Crown, your despatch No. 898 of the 7th August, forwarding copy of the Porte's reply to the inquiries which you were instructed to make as to the efficiency of the Turkish blockade of the Russian Black Sea ports; and I have now to state to you that the fact which is admitted in the reply of the Porte, namely, that one or two vessels under the Greek flag have received permission to pass through the line of blockade, is, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, open to grave question. The Porte suggests that as a belligerent Power which has instituted a blockade *de facto* of the ports of the other belligerent, she has by the same right which gives her the power of raising the blockade altogether "la faculté, dans certaines circonstances, de permettre à des navires destinés à des services spéciaux de franchir la ligne du blocus à titre exceptionnel."

In the judgment of Her Majesty's Government this claim cannot properly be entertained. In a case of blockade the rights and obligations of neutrals are equal, and a blockading Power has not the right to grant liberty to vessels of one or more particular neutral Powers to pass the blockading line and communicate freely with the ports of the belligerent which are subject to blockade, whilst she withholds such liberty from the vessels of all other neutral Powers. There is an exception to this general rule, namely, that the vessels of a neutral Power which are in a sinking or disabled state may be permitted to pass into a blockaded port in order to save life and property. This, however, is not the exception which the Porte, by her reply, suggests to have been the cause for which the permission "de communiquer librement avec des ports Russes" was granted to the vessels sailing under a Greek flag.

I have therefore to request that you will address a note to the Porte, in which you will state that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the permission in question was given in breach of the rights of neutrals, and that the blockade, so long as it exists, should be a blockade equally good against all and every neutral Power without exception, save as to vessels which may be in a sinking or disabled state requiring to get into the nearest port for the purpose of saving life and property.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 128.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 107. Political.)

Scutari, September 29, 1877.

My Lord,

IN some of my recent despatches I have had the honour to report that the Prince of Montenegro was endeavouring to come to an understanding with some of the Albanian Roman Catholic mountain tribes for the purpose of facilitating his advance in this direction; and that the Scialla, Sosci, and Puluti, were the tribes which were apparently most disposed to listen to His Highness's proposals.

The market of Scutari has been lately closed to these mountaineers, as a means of reminding them of the power of the Turkish authorities; and it appears that the measure has been felt sufficiently inconvenient to make the tribes hesitate to carry out their meditated alliance with the Montenegrins.

I have now ascertained that the Austrian Consul-General, M. Wassich, availing himself of the indecision of the tribes, after consultation with the Governor-General here, addressed a letter to the Sosci, Scialla, and Puluti Chiefs through the Bishop of their diocese.

I have been unable to obtain a copy of this letter, although I have been allowed to read it.

M. Wassich desired the Bishop to inform the Chiefs and their clansmen that he had special authority from his Government to advise them on this occasion. He urged them to consider most seriously before falling in with the views of Montenegro, depicting at great length and with detail the ambitious views, domineering nature, and real weakness of the Montenegrins. He concluded by assuring them that they would only end by becoming the miserable slaves of those who were now pretending to be their friends. M. Wassich also described with equal detail the advantages to be derived by the observance of the traditional loyalty towards the Ottoman Government, and he stated that if the Chiefs would come to Scutari and reassure the Pasha as to their intentions, he had his Excellency's promise that the market should be re-opened to their tribes, that no military service would be required of them, and that no question would be raised as to the residence in their midst of Mahommedan Mudirs.

In pressing upon their attention the above advice, I noticed that M. Wassich made use of the argument that, if they endured quietly for some time longer the Mohammedan yoke, their patience would be rewarded; but, he said, he would defer dilating upon this point until he could have an opportunity of doing so verbally.

Acting upon the advice thus given, the most influential Chiefs have come to Scutari, and have presented themselves before the Governor-General. I am told his Excellency has been disappointed to find that they will give no positive assurance that he may count on a contingent of their tribes for service at Podgoritza, and they are about once more to withdraw to their mountains to avoid pronouncing for either side until the approaching winter will furnish them with a sufficient excuse for not acting in one way or the other.

Prince Nicholas is sure to be made acquainted with the nature of M. Wassich's letter, and the violent language which it uses against Montenegro will necessarily increase the irritation against Austria, which I know has recently been greatly augmented in that Principality.

I trust that I have not been wrong in believing that a report of M. Wassich's action will not prove uninteresting to your Lordship, for it marks clearly the policy which Austria-Hungary has adopted towards Montenegro, and gives reason for surmise that the North Albanians are being buoyed up by a hope that some advantageous change is being prepared for them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 129.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 248.)

Athens, October 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I UNDERSTAND that dissensions have lately arisen in the Cabinet, owing, I am told, to M. Zaimis, Minister of Justice, being dissatisfied at not being named President of the Council, and that there is a question of convoking the Chamber at an early date.

I do myself the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a translation of an extract from the "Ston" newspaper, respecting the intended convocation of the Chamber, and remarking that the Cabinet are unwilling to continue on their own responsibility the military preparations so urgently required, and which should be completed by the spring, if not sooner.

With reference to the other statements in the inclosed article, I understand that His Majesty the King intends shortly to visit the camp at Thebes, where it is said about 7,000 men are concentrated.

With regard to naval preparations, I do not think that much progress has been made, and instead of 5,000 men, as mentioned in Server Pasha's telegram to Musurus Pasha of the 11th ultimo, copy of which your Lordship has done me the honour to forward to me in your Lordship's No. 72 of the 27th ultimo, I believe the number should be 500. The matter did not escape my notice at the time, but I hardly thought it worth bringing to your Lordship's notice.

A certain number of horses and mules have lately arrived from Italy; the horses being larger than those bred in Greece are destined for the artillery.

The arms which I reported as having arrived in the royal yacht "Amphitrite" are stated to be a present of Prince Ypsilanti, Greek Minister at Vienna and at Paris.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 129.

Extract from the "Stoa" of $\frac{\text{September 31}}{\text{October 12}}$, 1877.

(Free Translation.)

WE may repeat in our opinion our statement of yesterday, respecting the convocation of the Chamber for the $\frac{15}{27}$th October. This has been unanimously decided by the political leaders in the last Cabinet Council. Nothing now remains to be known but the opinion of the King, who is about to leave for the military camp at Thebes, and who in consequence will probably be prevented from being present at the opening of the Chamber. It is a question as to who will proclaim the opening of this ordinary Session in the King's absence, there being no President of the Council of Ministers to whom, according to the Constitution, devolves the duty of opening in the King's name the Legislative Body. We are, moreover, informed that Ministers, in view of the critical position of Government through the want of a Premier, have not the courage to continue the work of preparation of the country, and have ceased to give orders for the purchase of war materials, &c., unwilling, in the absence of the Chamber, to take the responsibility, by following the course prescribed to the entire Ministry by the Chamber, and that in consequence they were anxious to hasten the convocation of the Legislature. Even this decision of the Cabinet seems to have been inspired by a Constitutional spirit and is perhaps a most praiseworthy one. We cannot, however, help regretting, though it may merely be provisional, the interruption of preparations, and above all those for the navy, about which, we fear, no serious thought has been given, at least up to the present we have not seen the least outward sign able to convince us to the contrary, whilst time is so pressing, and until next spring, if not before, it is most necessary by all means we should find ourselves prepared as efficiently as possible.

Many of the volunteers from abroad enlisted in the army and now in the camp of Thebes suffer from ophthalmia and hernia and have been dismissed; this proves how slovenly Medical Commissioners did their duty.

No. 130.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 250.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 4, 1877.*

WITH reference to my No. 246 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Nomarch and Eparch of Acarnania have been removed from their respective offices in that province.

I have also the honour to report that I have to-day been informed upon good authority that some of the troops till now stationed on the frontier have been, or are being, withdrawn from there, with orders to go to the camp at Thebes.

These measures should, I think, be considered as satisfactory by the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 131.

Consul-General Crowe to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 1. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Düsseldorf, October 10, 1877.*

I HAVE had occasion to inquire into the truth of some of the reports at present floating about respecting Prussian orders for war material in this province, and I find direct, as well as indirect, confirmation of them. Directly, to cite one instance, I have it that the small arms factory at Witten is at present busy on an order for 13,000 powder pipes for shrapnel—an order sent at the close of last month from the war department at St. Petersburgh. Besides that, the same works have orders from the Russian Government for 150,000 Berdan barrels and bodies, some of which date from a period previous, others from a time subsequent to the outbreak of the war with Turkey. My information as to the Russian orders to Krupp are less direct than those respecting Witten; yet I may observe that in the published statements of the "Times" and the Berlin "National Zeitung" of September, the "Essen Zeitung" of the 6th of September, the "Berliner Börsen-Zeitung" of the 3rd, and the "Essen Zeitung" of the 4th of October, all of which call attention to the manufacture of guns by Krupp and Co. for the Russian Government, no contradiction hitherto has been given.

General von Reutern, Aide-de-camp to the Emperor of Russia, accompanied the Emperor of Germany to the manœuvres that took place near Düsseldorf last month. He was with the Emperor when he visited Krupp's establishment, and I have been informed from a very trustworthy source that he gave the following account of some of the causes of the comparative failure of the Russian army in the field. The Russian War Office had ordered and received guns originally from Krupp's; subsequently it began to make guns in Russian arsenals with the help of Krupp's models, and fancied that all had thus been secured that was requisite for a thorough armament. In practice it was found that this was a mistake. M. Krupp objected to the Russian imitations, and thus produced a quarrel. The Russian-made Krupp guns proved to be inferior in every way to the originals, and Russia came to the conclusion that a reconciliation with Krupp was the best thing that could be compassed. It is not denied that when General von Reutern visited Krupp's early in September with the Emperor of Germany, the firm had a large order in hand for guns of various calibres for Russia. It is only as to the extent of this order that divergence of opinion exists. One private version is that Russia has ordered 1,000 field guns from 7 centimètres to 85 centimètres; 300,000 shells, plus 20; 28 centimètre guns for the Baltic; all to be delivered in March. A public version in the "Times" gives the number of field guns to be made at 700; another public version in the "Berliner Börsen-Zeitung" of October 3 is, that the Russian order to Krupp is for 300 guns, including siege pieces, for the Baltic. My private intelligence is to the effect that the order is for 300 guns, to be delivered on and before the 1st of April. As to ammunition to be made at Krupp's I know nothing, but it would seem, from what I have stated in the first part of this despatch, that ammunition is being ordered in sections at different factories. The great works of the Union at Dortmund have an order from the Russian Government, began on the 20th of last month, for 1,000,000 kilos. of tubing, in lengths of 50 feet, and diameter of 4 feet, closed in conic-shape at the ends, to be delivered on the 22nd October. The Union alone was unable to carry out the contract, and was obliged to make sub-

contracts with all the boiler works in its vicinity. The tubes are described as intended for bridging purposes.

Finally, I may say that the powder factories about Cologne have never been so busy as now. Trains of powder have been seen passing to the north, and it is calculated that dividends of not less than 10 per cent. will be given by powder manufacturers here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. CROWE.

No. 132.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 434.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 11, 1877, 5·45 P.M.*

GRAND VIZIER informs me that the battle near Ahja Dagh, between Kirkhaneh and Hajiveli, ended in victory along the whole line; Russian losses estimated at 1,200.

No. 133.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 12, 1877, 2·35 P.M.*

A TELEGRAM in "Daily News" this afternoon from special correspondent at Bucharest, dated Thursday evening, states that 1,500 Hungarians have crossed Roumania frontier near Turn-Severin. Is this report well founded?

No. 134.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 366.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 12, 1877.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 531 of the 30th ultimo, reporting an interview with M. de Giers, in which, in accordance with the instructions conveyed to you in my despatch No. 329 of September 3, you drew his Excellency's attention to the reports which have reached Her Majesty's Government of acts of plunder and cruelty committed in parts of the country occupied by the Russian forces, and more particularly to the report of Mr. Consul Blunt, stating that the ambulance of the National Aid Society had been deliberately fired on by Russian troops when near Eski-Zaghra, on the 30th July last; and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to M. de Giers, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 135.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 79.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 12, 1877.*

YOUR despatch No. 234 of the 22nd ultimo, reporting the substance of a conversation which you had had with M. Tricoupi on the subject of the state of the relations between Turkey and Greece, has been received; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs upon the occasion in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 136.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 80.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1877.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country has recently communicated to me a copy of a despatch addressed to him by the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, dwelling upon the state of the relations between the Governments of the Sublime Porte and His Hellenic Majesty, and upon the communications which have passed on this subject between yourself and the Greek Government.

A copy of this despatch is herewith inclosed, for your information; and, with reference to M. Tricoupi's observations, I have to point out to you that the object of the communications which you have been instructed to make to the Greek Government was not to interfere with the rights of Greece as an independent nation, or to limit her legitimate freedom of action, but to induce the Greek Government to refrain giving such provocation to Turkey as might involve their country in war with that Power, and expose it to the most serious dangers.

It was with this view that you were instructed to ask the Greek Government if they would authorize Her Majesty's Government to assure the Porte in their name of their peaceful intentions.

M. Tricoupi having in his reply distinctly limited his assurances to the present time, and the Porte having already stated that it could not accept them as satisfactory with such a reservation, Her Majesty's Government felt that it could be of no advantage to communicate those assurances to the Turkish Government as they stood.

In the advice which they have given to Greece, Her Majesty's Government have been actuated by equally friendly feelings towards both the Powers primarily concerned, and they still believe that the wisest policy for Greece to pursue is to maintain an attitude of strict and impartial neutrality, and to give Turkey no cause for supposing that she intends in certain eventualities to make war upon her or stir up insurrection in her provinces.

I have to request that you will make a communication in the above sense to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, and you will at the same time add that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with the greatest satisfaction from your recent reports that the Greek Government are taking serious measures to prevent the passage of armed bands into Turkish territory, and that they appear to have every desire and intention to remain at peace with Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 137.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 598.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1877.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1120 of the 24th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had on that day with Server Pasha respecting alleged preparations in Greece for sending bands of armed men across the Turkish frontiers to bring about an insurrection in the border provinces; and I have to state to your Excellency that I approve the advice which you gave to Server Pasha on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 138.

Pro-Memorid by Count Menabrea.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby, October 12.)

LE Gouvernement Italien a été informé par le Consul du Roi à Damas, qu'en vue des difficultés que rencontrent les autorités Ottomanes pour le recrutement des Rédifs (dont un nombre très considérable s'était réfugié aux environs de Balbeck), un corps de troupes du Liban, commandé par le Colonel Sélim, a été chargé, dans l'absence de troupes régulières disponibles, de rechercher les fuyards, et de les reconduire aux dépôts de leurs bataillons. Cette mesure avait eu déjà un commencement d'exécution avec de bons résultats dans la première quinzaine du mois passé.

C'est la première fois, sauf erreur, que les milices du Liban sont employés hors des confins de la Montagne; et ce fait donne lieu à une question de principe qui, en base de l'Article 15 du Règlement du 19 Juin, 1871, devrait, à ce qu'il semble, se résoudre en sens négatif. Cet Article accord, en effet (alinea 1), à la milice du Liban la mission de pourvoir, en temps ordinaires, au maintien de l'ordre et à l'exécution des lois, bien entendu dans la Montagne même.

Mais la question ne doit pas être considérée uniquement sous ce point de vue juridique; et on ne saurait dire s'il est très prudent d'employer ces milices dans des régions où leur présence ne peut que soulever d'anciennes haines et préparer des représailles pour l'avenir.

Le Général Menabrea, en portant l'attention du Comte de Derby sur cet état de choses, serait très reconnaissant à son Excellence, si elle voulait bien lui communiquer, à cet égard, la manière de voir du Gouvernement de la Reine.

35, *Queen's Gate, le* 11 *Octobre*, 1877.

No. 139.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 108. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October* 2, 1877.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 5 of the 28th August past, I have the honour to report that Captain Clarke arrived here on the 20th ultimo.

Finding that Captain Clarke had not contemplated visiting the Turkish positions at Spuz and Podgoritza, I thought it proper to place before him the drafts of my despatches to your Lordship No. 76 of the 23rd October, 1876, and Political, No. 13, of the 7th March, 1877; and, after their perusal, he kindly consented to proceed to those localities, and examine them from a military point of view, whilst keeping in mind all the rectifications of frontier that have been proposed.

Captain Clarke was received at Podgoritza by the Commander-in-chief, Ali Saib Pasha, and all the Turkish officers, with every mark of confidence, and his examination of the positions on the frontier was facilitated to the best of their power.

He had proposed forwarding a Report on the result of his survey to his superiors by the present mail; but the delay already experienced by him in proceeding southwards obliged him to commence his journey without completing it, and he therefore authorized me to repeat to your Lordship the principal heads of the conclusions he has arrived at.

Captain Clarke considers the military position of Spuz and Podgoritza as excessively strong, not only in a defensive, but also in an offensive sense. If political considerations could be discarded the position ought not to be abandoned.

The proposed frontier of the River Moratcha, Captain Clarke entirely agrees with me, would render Podgoritza untenable on the first renewal of hostilities.

Captain Clarke accepts, in the absolute necessity of a rectification of the present demarcation of territory, the River Sem as the most practical line of frontier, but he rejects any concession that would go a step further, as he is of opinion that it would be extremely unfair to deprive the Turks of a foothold on the plain of Podgoritza, and the only convenient landing-place from the Lake is Helm. This place is at present ill-defended, and would have to be greatly strengthened should it be transformed into a Turkish out-post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 140.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 251.)

My Lord, *Athens, October* 6, 1877.

A REPORT, said to have been taken from the "Tagblatt," having appeared in to-day's newspaper the "Stoa," to the effect that Prince Gortchakow had addressed a note to the Hellenic Government, urging them to declare war as soon as possible against Turkey, as any delay would be of no advantage either to Greece or Russia, I asked M. Tricoupi this afternoon if there was any truth in the report, and he replied that there was none.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 141.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 252. Confidential.)
Athens, October 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a report having reached me to the effect that the Ottoman Government had determined to ask for the recall of the Greek Consul at Canea on the ground that he had allowed a Cretan Ottoman subject, furnished with a Greek passport, to proceed with important papers of a dangerous nature to join a revolutionary meeting in Crete, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Governor-General, I asked M. Tricoupi yesterday if he had received any communication on the subject from the Porte. His Excellency replied that he had; that the Porte had demanded the recall of the Consul at Canea, but that he had refused to comply with the demand on various grounds, which are, as far as I can recollect, as follows:—

1. That the offender was a Greek and not an Ottoman subject. This reason was assigned, I presume, to justify his having a Greek passport.

2. That the Consul could not be called upon to exercise constraint over his movements, however much he might and did disapprove of his proceedings.

3. That he could not remove an official towards whom the Governor-General had not fulfilled his promise of calling in order to show his regret for the expulsion of M. Philou from Crete, which formed the subject of Mr. Stuart's despatch No. 170, Confidential, of the 27th July last to your Lordship.

4. Because the Cretan refugees in Athens, and, amongst others, a certain Hadgi Michali, a leader in the Cretan revolution of 1867, and who has been a refugee in, and I believe a pensioner of, Russia, and who is now here, are very desirous that the Greek Consul in question should be removed from his post, on the ground of his being too well disposed towards the Turks, and that he could not, therefore, take a step which might lead the Cretan refugees to suppose that they could exercise pressure upon the Greek Government.

It is somewhat singular that both the Porte and the Cretan refugees should wish for the recall of the same official.

From certain remarks which M. Tricoupi made to me, he appears anxious that his Consular officials in Turkey should be upon good terms with the Turkish authorities, and I think it quite possible that those who are not so may be removed upon some pretext, but that the Government are unwilling to take any step of the kind apparently under pressure from the Porte.

I may mention that M. Tricoupi said that the papers found upon the Cretan who has given rise to this question were not of a very important nature; he is, however, I understand, a nephew of Hadgi Michalis, and that alone would excite suspicion against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 142.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 254.)
Athens, October 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Tricoupi complained very much yesterday of the conduct of the Turkish authorities in different parts of the Empire: he said that he had just received a telegram from Rhodes reporting some arbitrary acts on the part of the Pasha there; that he could at present obtain no satisfaction from the Porte for the outrage lately offered to the Greek Consulate by a number of Bashi-Bazouks at Larissa, and that the Gulf of Arta was still closed to vessels after dark by the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 143.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 12, 1877, 3·20 P.M.*

IT is reported that 7,000 Hungarian and Polish volunteers have crossed the Austrian frontier into Little Wallachia; they will probably attempt to cross over to Widdin.

A Council of Ministers has been held, and Roumanian troops dispatched against the volunteers.

No. 144.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 436.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 12, 1877, 7·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 428, I am informed by Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that telegram from Grand Vizier to Prince Milan will not be sent for the present, Porte wishing first to see what course Prince intends to pursue.

No. 145.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 12, 1877.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informed me this afternoon that Greek Government are thinking of buying some ships of war in Italy.

No. 146.

The Earl of Derby to Acting Consul Freeman.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 13, 1877.*

UNLESS you see any special objection, you should give Vice-Consul Cooper a general authority to visit Herzegovina and the Servian frontier to watch the progress of affairs.

No. 147.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. James, M.P.

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 13, 1877.*

IN reply to your letter of the 9th instant, calling attention to a statement made by Mr. Layard in one of his despatches recently laid before Parliament on the subject of the Bulgarian outrages of 1876, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that a copy of your letter will be forwarded to his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 148.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 596.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 13, 1877.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. W. H. James, M.P., calling attention to a statement contained in your despatch No. 546 of the 30th May, on the subject of the outrages which took place in Bulgaria in 1876, an extract from which despatch was published in Blue Book, Turkey No. 26.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 149.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 327.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 13, 1877.

I CAUSED to be repeated to your Excellency this day, for your information, the telegrams as marked in the margin,* of which copies are inclosed; and I added the following words: "The above and other telegrams on the same subject about to be repeated to you are communicated for your private and personal information solely."

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 150.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October* 13, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

I AM informed at Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the Hungarian incursion is a false alarm.

Some peasants hearing of movements of Austrian troops on the other side of the frontier, mistook them for volunteers. As the localities are a long distance from the nearest Prefect, some time elapsed before this Government could ascertain truth.

No. 151.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 14, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 14, 1877, 3·10 P.M.

MINISTRY for Foreign Affairs deny that the "Fremden Blatt" is semi-official, but admit that it receives articles from Ministry. This paper states to-day, with reference to reports of mediation:—

"We stand to-day in the same position as we did months ago; and as every attempt at peace would then have been vain and purposeless, so it would be now."

The article also concludes thus:—

"It cannot possibly be the policy of Austria to quit its position of reserve in order to act the part of a mediator upon the scene of action.

"No; all interference must remain far from us until it is necessary to protect the vital interests of Austria."

No. 152.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 66. Political.)

My Lord, *Odessa, October* 10, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 64, Political, of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that I have been informed that two Italian vessels which have been at Berdiansk since the blockade was established, are preparing to load grain, their captains having received telegrams that they are chartered by the firm of Vagliano.

Mr. Vice-Consul Wagstaff also telegraphed to me to-day, from Nicolaief, that five Greek vessels, carrying 15,000 chetverts, or 10,800 quarters, have been chartered by the Constantinople bankers Zarifi to load wheat immediately for Marseilles, shipper giving to captains letters freeing them from all responsibility in case of capture.

No merchant-vessels have entered or left Odessa since the blockade was established, except for the Dnieper.

Russian coasting-trade in the Black Sea has been declared open to vessels of all nations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

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* Mr. Layard, telegrams of October 10 and 11; to Mr. Layard, telegram of October 13.

No. 153.

Consul-General Crowe to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 2. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Düsseldorf, October* 12, 1877.

WITH reference to my last despatch on the subject of Russian orders for material of war in these provinces, I am now in a position to inform your Lordship that the latest contract between the Russian Government and M. Krupp is really for 1,050 guns, to be delivered by the end of March.

Further, I am informed a wholesale house at Berlin has accepted an order from the Government at St. Petersburgh for 250,000 pairs of boots for infantry soldiers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. A. CROWE.

No. 154.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 437.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 14, 1877, 1 P.M.

KEMBALL telegraphs that there has been no fighting since Tuesday until daybreak yesterday, when a diversion was made by the Turkish left against superior force, but unsuccessfully.

Six battalions arrived from right wing. Important intelligence of Daghistan revolution. Russians will send back twenty battalions, but may first make formidable attack.

No. 155.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 81. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleih, September* 30, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 78 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the troubles in the Ansariyeh mountains in the district of Lattakia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, September* 30, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that since the above date no salient fact in connection with the revolt of the Ansariyeh has been reported to me, and a certain amount of tranquillity would appear to reign at present in the district of Sahioun, though it is generally supposed that if the troops are withdrawn the disorder will recommence, as the present tranquillity can only be looked upon as a kind of armed truce, enforced by the presence of the Imperial troops.

Nothing appears to have been done in the way of giving satisfaction to the Christians who have suffered in person and property during the recent troubles, and Akif Pasha returned to Beyrout on the 27th instant.

I have learnt with regret that Shakir Bey, who has been Mutessarif of Tripoli during about twelve months, has recently been removed from his post without any good reason, that I can ascertain, unless it be the restless spirit of change, the evil effects of which I have so frequently had the honour to point out.

I believe Shakir Bey is to be replaced by a certain Aziz Pasha, who is entirely unknown to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 156.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 83. Political.)
Aleih, September 30, 1877.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 77 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the Bulgarian prisoners at Acre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Aleih, September 30, 1877.
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant informing me that it would be desirable, if possible, to obtain the names of some of the Bulgarian prisoners at Acre.

In consequence I telegraphed to Mr. Consular Agent Finzi to obtain and transmit to me a list of their names with such other accurate details about them as he could procure.

I have now the honour to transmit herewith a list of these prisoners which it appears was furnished by the authorities to Mr. Finzi, who, however, informs me that he was not permitted to see them.

The information contained in my despatch of the 11th instant was furnished to me by the unfortunate Mr. Gale, whose murder I have already reported by telegraph, and of which I give the details in another despatch.

I requested Captain Anstruther to mention the subject of these prisoners to the authorities at Acre, and he informs that the Governor assured him that only five or six were Bulgarians, that two of them (one a Bulgarian) had died from small-pox, and that he would himself visit them to see that their punishment was lightened as much as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 157.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 85. Political.)
Aleih, October 1, 1877.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the arrest of a number of Maronite monks in the northern part of Mount Lebanon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 157.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Aleih, October 1, 1877.
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the Governor-General of the Lebanon, who is now on a tour of inspection in the northern district of the mountain, has arrested a number of Maronite monks belonging to the convents in that part of the country.

The circumstances which led to this unprecedented act of vigour on the part of the authorities appear to have been as follows:—

The Maronite Patriarch and the Papal Delegate have frequently complained of the gross immorality and insubordination of the monks, who recently pushed their audacity so far as to set at defiance their spiritual superiors, whom they refused to admit into their establishments, and tore up and disregarded all orders that were sent to them.

Upon this a certain number, about twenty, belonging to the convent of Cozhaïa, which is one of the principal establishments in the country, were excommunicated, unfrocked, and ordered to quit their convent, an order which they refused to obey, and upon their refusal the Patriarch and Papal Delegate requested Rustem Pasha to expel them by force.

His Excellency, wishing to avoid extreme measures, sent to invite the recalcitrant monks to come to him to Ehden, where he was staying, an invitation which they obeyed, but they came accompanied by about forty other monks, all armed with stout cudgels. Upon the Pasha giving orders for the arrest of those whose expulsion was demanded by the clerical authorities, the others resisted the execution of the order, and a struggle ensued which lasted about half-an-hour, and ended by about thirty refractory monks being taken into custody. Fortunately, the room where this struggle occurred was too small to permit the monks making a free use of their cudgels, and the Pasha, who was present, prevented his men from using their arms, otherwise there might have been bloodshed to be regretted.

The scene, I am told, beggars description, and the blasphemous expressions used by these supposed holy men against their spiritual chiefs were such that it would be impossible to repeat.

The monks who were not arrested dispersed themselves over the country, and the Governor-General, fearing they might return to the convent, and perhaps pillage it, sent at once some of the mountain militia to occupy it, which was effected without difficulty, and only about a dozen aged monks were found there, who offered no resistance, but, on the contrary, appeared pleased to see the troops arrive.

This event, which only occurred on the evening of the 26th ultimo, will no doubt create a great agitation in the Lebanon, but I hope will, in the end, be productive of good, as these convents were the great strongholds of ignorant fanaticism, and the monks were, in general, notoriously immoral, ignorant, and brutal, and always ready to afford an asylum to criminals who were guilty of the most notorious crimes.

There is little doubt that Yussef Karam and his friends will raise a great outcry against the interference of the secular authority in the affairs of the Church, but I think it will have the effect of entirely breaking up the remnant of his party in the Lebanon, supported, as it was, chiefly by monkish intrigues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 158.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 16.)

(No. 91. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, October 4, 1877.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch dated September 27, which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, regarding the state of affairs in Banjaluka.

The Governor-General, Mahzar Pasha, asserted to me a few days ago that some sixty or seventy armed individuals, hitherto with the insurgents, had made their submission in the Sandjak of Bandjaluka; but this assertion does not seem to be borne out by Mr. Cooper's report. There is no doubt that from time to time, and for varied reasons,

there are individual cases of insurgents submitting and of refugees returning; but it is hopeless to expect, under existing circumstances, that there will be any considerable remigration of the latter, or any general submission of the former. The Turkish authorities will not naturally acknowledge it, but there is no denying the fact that, however good may be their intentions, they are not in a position to effectually protect the refugees, should they return in any number, either from the vengeance of their Mussulman neighbours or from the insurgents, whose interest it is to keep the country in a state of ferment, and who will not allow their coreligionists to settle quietly in their homes.

When the Government is obliged to call out not only the Mustahfiz, but also the first and second classes of the "Asaker-Mouavineh," to defend the country against external enemies, it is hardly to be expected that it will forego the active services of its regular troops, by appointing them to protect the lives and property of rebellious subjects; and it is certainly not on the irregular and irresponsible force of Mustahfiz and "Asaker-Mouavineh" that it can count to maintain order and to check any fanatical outbursts.

Dr. Ziemann, agent of the Manchester Relief Society, arrived here to-day from Brood. The object of his journey is to inquire what likelihood there would be of the Bosnian fugitives being allowed to resettle quietly in the country, and what protection they could count on from the Turkish Government, should they return to Bosnia before the coming winter. Dr. Ziemann seems disposed to use his influence among them, which, I believe, is considerable, to induce them to return, and the Society which he represents would provide funds to assist their re-establishment on their former lands; but I do not feel justified in recommending him to take any steps to bring about what, under different circumstances from those I have stated, would certainly be a most desirable result. The return of the fugitives at the present moment would not improbably expose them to a repetition of their sufferings, and might cause renewed embarrassment to the Turkish Government. Their prolonged absence, I am well aware, entails on this province great loss and on themselves much misery, but I cannot conscientiously recommend the present moment as a favourable one for their repatriation.

Dr. Ziemann calculates the total number of Bosnian fugitives now in Dalmatia, Croatia, Servia, and Montenegro at not less than 170,000, and describes their condition as deplorable. He proposes, I believe, if they cannot before the ensuing winter return to their country, to attempt to colonize them permanently in Austria.

The number of insurgents now in arms, according to the most reliable information, does not exceed 1,500, of which about 1,000 are in the neighbourhood of the Triplex Confinium, under a leader of the name of Bilbia, and the remainder, divided in three bands, frequent the Bosnian frontier between Kostajnica and Bihac.

With reference to Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper's despatch, I would remark that the incident referred to of Dimitrije Rusich and the Boïtch is a case in which two brothers of the latter name, Mahommedans, have frequently endeavoured by intimidation to extort money from a Christian merchant named Dimitrije Rusich, and have caused him other petty annoyances. Dimitrije's house has also been burnt and his shop broken into and robbed within a short space of time, both of which acts he attributes to the brothers Boïtch, but he does not appear to have sufficient evidence to prove their culpability. One of the brothers was lately imprisoned for a few days by the Mutessarif of Banjaluka for using threatening language to Dimitrije, but I fear that such slight punishment is only likely to further irritate him against his victim.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Banjaluka, Bosnia, September 27, 1877.

Sir,

NOTICES appearing from time to time in the English press that the refugees are returning to Bosnia, and that the leaders of the insurrection are making terms with the Turkish authorities, I think it may be as well to report that very little is here heard of such proceedings.

A few days ago the Mutesarif informed me that some two or three men had come in and given up their arms, but I have not heard this confirmed from other sources, and besides the number of men permanently in arms against the Government in this neighbourhood is but small.

In the month of July there were upwards of 50,000 Bosnian refugees in Croatia and Slavonia, and since that date there has not been any sensible diminution of the number.

The poorer classes of refugees lost all when they forsook their villages, and are not likely to return as long as they can find work or the Government will provide subsistence. It must also be remembered that the populations in the neighbouring Austrian provinces are Croat and Slav, so that the Bosnian refugees are not amongst a foreign people.

With the richer classes, though from different causes, the case is similar. Take for instance those from Banjaluka.

At the outbreak of the insurrection the richest Christian inhabitants were summoned to the konak, and it was the personal interference of the Austrian Vice-Consul which alone saved them being sent to prison. These men had not done anything against the law nor the Government, but the Mustasarif said "it was as well to take precautions."

Many inhabitants were so thoroughly alarmed at this arbitrary act that they took the earliest opportunity of leaving Banjaluka. Their business and houses were placed in the hands of confidential agents or servants, and from that day to this the richest inhabitants, with but few exceptions, have not been near their native town.

The churches, both Latin and Orthodox, were early destroyed, and at one time, I am told, fires were of nightly occurrence. Happily, now a quieter state of things exists in the town, but from time to time incidents like that of Dimitrije Rusich and the Boïtch crop up, and show that the ill-feeling towards the Christians has not yet died out.

The unfortunate rivalry between the Latins and Orthodox adds fuel to the flame. Only yesterday I heard of a cruel outrage perpetrated in this neighbourhood by the Orthodox. An armed party of some dozen men entered a Latin's house at Motike, a village not far from here, and after torturing the Latin for some time, put him to death. One version says that a neighbour, in pursuit of a private quarrel, called in the aid of a band of robbers or insurgents; another story is, that the Latin, who was a man of substance, had last year complained about his cattle being stolen by some Orthodox, and that in retaliation the Orthodox called in the robbers, and that torture was used to make the unhappy victim yield up his treasure. But both reports agree the deed was done by a band of insurgents. The victim's wife was also wounded, but she can identify some of the robbers, and the Government has taken measures for their apprehension; three men have already been arrested. The Orthodox are endeavouring to fix the blame on the Turks, but the Latin priest of Banjaluka told the Austrian Vice-Consul that the crime was committed by Orthodox insurgents.

With life in such constant danger, trade has been much crippled, and the frequent employment of Bashi-Bazouks has unsettled the Mahommedan population.

Of the administration of the laws I have lately had an opportunity of judging, since it has been necessary for a British subject, himself a Mahommedan from India, to apply for Consular aid to collect debts which had been recognized by the law courts, and for the recovery of which necessary authority had been granted, but not executed.

As long as matters remain in their present unsettled state, those who can afford to live out of Bosnia will not voluntarily re-enter it. Even the Turkish authorities leave their families in Constantinople.

However, it is only fair to the present Mutessarif to state that he is doing a good deal in the way of repairs to the roads; that the Christians are allowed openly to perform the ceremonies of their religion; that the markets are well supplied, and that the people attending do not look like those in want.

The harvest has been good, with the exception of the plum crop, which was a failure; and the necessaries of life are abundant.

Of poverty I should say there was less among the Christians of this neighbourhood than in many an English county.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 159.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 16.*)

(No. 93. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, October 5, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 90, Political, of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that nothing certain appears to be known either here or

at Mostar of the subsequent movements of the Montenegrins in the Herzegovina. The garrison of Goransko, consisting of only four companies, having surrendered, was allowed to pass free to Gatzko, but the men were not permitted to retain their arms. There are rumours that there has been some fighting at Gatzko, but from the most reliable information I can obtain, it would appear that the main force of the Montenegrins have retired from the Herzegovina and gone towards Spuz, which, with the artillery now at their disposal, it is thought they may succeed in taking.

The "Asaker-Mouavineh" from this sandjak have not gone farther than Mostar, and will probably shortly return to their homes, as, it is said, the Mussulmans of Mostar refuse to march, and, therefore, those of Serajevo consider themselves dispensed from all obligation to assist in the defence of a province whose own inhabitants draw back from the task.

There are also said to be an immense number of deserters from the regiments of Bosnian Redif stationed in the Herzegovina. The authorities even acknowledge that the number exceeds 1,000. The greater part of these remain in hiding at their homes, but unfortunately some few take to brigandage, and not long since, notwithstanding the measures adopted for the protection of the Brood road, four of these deserters stopped six Austrian carters bringing merchandize from Brood to Serajevo, and robbed them in broad day of all the money they had on their persons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 160.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 16.)

(No. 117.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, October 11, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 111 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that yesterday M. Tisza, in reply to questions by M. Helfy, stated that in Transylvania about 2,000 stand of arms had been seized, and some eight persons arrested by the magisterial authorities, and also that three cases of dynamite had been found in an ordinary travelling trunk which had been sent by passenger train from Vienna. The Courts would decide upon the offence and punishment of those who were connected with this affair, but, as the judicial inquiry was still pending, he could not enter into further details. His Excellency added that guns of an old pattern had been sold off from the Vienna Arsenal a year or two ago, but certainly not for export to Roumania, or for a volunteer raid against Russia.

As regards the personal position of M. Helfy, who had referred to the rumours in the newspapers, M. Tisza said that he did not suspect him of being a party to this Transylvanian raid. Moreover, there was not even a shadow to justify the exaggerated rumours of excitement, or of a kind of internal revolution in Transylvania.

As regards the judicial investigation now proceeding, it was the duty of the Government to let it go on; for, as M. Tisza observed, such unauthorized expeditions could not be countenanced; and, for example, Italy acted similarly in 1862 and 1863 in regard to arms seized on the Austrian frontier, although Italy was certainly not very friendly to Austria; and, again, hindered Garibaldi's independent action in respect of Rome, although "the ardent desire of the Italians to possess Rome was not exceeded by the ardent desire of Hungarians to hasten to the aid of Turkey."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 161.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 15, 1877.*

I AM confidentially informed that Server Pasha has addressed a most conciliatory note to the Turkish Minister here, explaining motive for the step taken through Her Majesty's Government.

(Secret.)
I am also informed that camp at Lamia is almost evacuated; that officers in command of troops have received hints to allow many of the reserves to return to their homes; and that camp at Thebes will probably be broken up after King's visit. It is also hoped that difficulties between Turkey and Greece, such as question of Gulf of Arta, of Consul in Crete, and others, may be settled, as it were, unofficially.

No. 162.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 438.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 15, 1877, 11 P.M.*

PORTE informs me that Russians have bombarded Sulina and burnt a great part of the town, but were subsequently repulsed. A Turkish gunboat was destroyed.

No. 163.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 16.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 16, 1877, 1·10 P.M.*

FROM Colonel Wellesley, dated October 12:—

"Russian spies say that Osman Pasha informed assembled troops in Plevna of intention of Turkey to continue the fight till last Russian is driven out of Bulgaria.

"Same persons estimate Turkish force in that position at about 55,000.

"Turks have several lines of defence in rear of the redoubt now being sapped up to by the Roumanians. Should, therefore, this work fall, the result would merely be a strengthening of the right allied position.

"Horrible weather; roads almost impracticable."

No. 164.

Consul Watkins to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

Larnaca, October 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch I addressed yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with reference to the departure of Redifs and the restoration of order in this island, and copy of another referring to the forced loan sanctioned by Imperial Iradé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES WATKINS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Larnaca, October 2, 1877.

Sir,

REFERRING to the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on ultimo with regard to the enrolment of 2,450 Redifs, I beg to inform you that 330 of these were dispatched to the Dardanelles by the Austrian steamer of the 5th September, and a further detachment of 45 will embark to-day for the same destination.

I have mentioned the circumstance of the Redifs to your Excellency, as this is the first time that a call has been made upon the patriotism of the reserve in the Island of Cyprus.

The excitement produced amongst the Christians by threats and disorders on the part of Redifs and other Mussulmans has subsided, and I am glad to report to your Excellency that at present tranquillity and confidence in the exertions of the Governor for its maintenance prevail throughout the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES WATKINS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Larnaca, October 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Governor of Cyprus has received instructions to carry out the provisions of the Imperial Iradé regarding the forced loan sanctioned in order to meet the expenses of the war.

The amount to be collected from the inhabitants of this island will be equal to the proceeds of the land-tax (emlak) and of the tax on industry (temetuat), estimated at about 3,500,000 piastres.

This loan is to be repaid in twelve years, with interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a sinking fund of 5 per cent.

Much difficulty is anticipated in its collection, owing to the heavy taxations already endured during the current year, and to the general poverty of the island, caused by a great failure in the crops and the high prices of breadstuffs, which have attained thus far more than double the ordinary rates, and will, it is feared, be still dearer in the winter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES WATKINS.

No. 165.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

Gorni Studen, October 15, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

AM I to discontinue sending despatches by Austrian messenger? If so, I am without any means of communication unless messenger is periodically sent to me from Bucharest. Please telegraph answer to me at Imperial head-quarters, Bulgaria. All quiet here for the present. Weather beautiful, and roads drying.

No. 166.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

St. Petersburgh, October 16, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE MICHAEL, October 15, 9 P.M., reports that he has totally defeated Moukhtar Pasha, and cut him off from Kars. Is still unable to state the number of guns and prisoners taken.

No. 167.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

Therapia, October 16, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

(No. 440.)
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Vice-Consul Calvert's despatch No. 42, inclosed in my No. 1183, I have made the strongest possible representations in the highest quarters on the subject of Ibrahim Pasha's conduct and language, and have been promised confidentially that he will be recalled.

No. 168.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

Therapia, October 17, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

(No. 441.)
(Telegraphic.)

MR. ZOHRAB telegraphs, under date of yesterday, that Moukhtar Pasha entered Kars on the evening of the 15th; whether alone or with troops not known. Hard fighting going on since Saturday. Ten Turkish battalions cut off at Yani Tepe, and surrounded by thirty-six Russian battalions. Desertions on the increase. Communication between Moukhtar Pasha and Ismail Pasha interrupted. Latter continues to retire. Only two battalions and a half left at Erzeroum.

No. 169.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 17.)

St. Petersburgh, October 17, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE MICHAEL telegraphs, dated Karayal, October 16, 1 P.M.:—

"Having dislodged enemy from heights of Orlok and thrown them on Kars, general attack was made on all positions of Mukhtar Pasha. Mount Avliar, key of position, was taken by assault, by which Mukhtar's army was cut in two; that portion driven on Kars was completely beaten, and dispersed with great losses, several thousand prisoners and four cannon; the other, composed of three divisions, was routed in their positions of Ahja, being surrounded were obliged to surrender, leaving in our hands a mass of prisoners, with seven Pashas, thirty-two cannon, and an enormous quantity of ammunition. Mukhtar Pasha has fled to Kars. Our losses comparatively small."

No. 170.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 18.)

Sublime Porte, le 26 Septembre, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

POUR faire suite à mes précédentes communications, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, pour votre information, copie d'un rapport que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Photiades Bey relativement aux démarches faites par l'Angleterre auprès du Cabinet d'Athènes au sujet des préparatifs militaires qui se poursuivent en Grèce.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SERVER.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Photiades Bey to Server Pasha.

Athènes, le 11 Septembre, 1877.

EN me référant au télégramme que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser à votre Excellence le 7 de ce mois, je m'empresse de lui rendre compte, d'une manière plus complète, de la démarche que mon collègue d'Angleterre à tentée, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce en vue de demander des explications sur les armements des Hellènes.

Faisant allusion aux inquiétudes que, d'après les rapports de Mr. Layard, la Sublime Porte éprouverait par suite des armements en question, Lord Derby a invité son représentant à Athènes à demander à M. Tricoupi s'il était disposé à autoriser le Gouvernement de la Reine à rassurer les Ministres de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan sur les intentions du Cabinet d'Athènes. Sa Seigneurie proposait, à cet effet, une déclaration de la part de la Grèce portant que celle-ci non-seulement ne ferait pas la guerre à la Turquie, mais qu'elle s'abstiendrait encore de provoquer ou d'encourager des soulèvements dans les provinces limitrophes de l'Empire.

M. Tricoupi a cru devoir rappeler, à cette occasion, le Protocole de la Conférence de Londres du 30 Août, 1832, où les garanties démandées alors par la Sublime Porte, au sujet de la limitation des forces de terre et de mer de Grèce, furent rejetées par les Plénipotentiaires signataires du dit Protocole, qui ont soutenu que l'entretien de ces forces, sans en limiter le nombre, constitue un droit inhérent à l'indépendance d'un Etat. Après avoir également établi le droit de la Grèce de déclarer la guerre, en ne prenant conseil que de ses propres intérêts, M. Tricoupi a dit à Mr. Wyndham que les armements poursuivis aujourd'hui en Grèce n'avaient nullement un but agressif contre la Turquie, mais qu'ils se faisaient à l'effet de préserver les intérêts de l'Hellénisme des dangers dont ils étaient menacés.

Le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce a conclu en appuyant sur les efforts du Gouvernement Hellénique pour contenir les Comités révolutionnaires et à exprimer le désir d'entretenir, quant à présent, des rapports de bon voisinage avec la Turquie.

Par ce qui précède votre Excellence se fera une idée juste du sens et de la portée de la démarche ci-dessus mentionnée ainsi que de la valeur des réserves et des déclarations que M. Tricoupi a faites en cette circonstance.

D'après ce qui m'a été affirmé, l'impression produite par la démarche Anglaise dont il s'agit, sur le Cabinet d'Athènes, a été très vive.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 171.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 444.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 18, 1877, 3 P.M.*

SULTAN informs me that Moukhtar Pasha telegraphs that he has lost about 10,000 prisoners, but that he has 30,000 men for the defence of Kars, and is himself in the Soghanli Dagh with 10,000 men; 17 battalions leave Constantinople to-day for Erzeroum, and more troops are to follow. The Sultan, whom I saw this morning, did not appear disheartened. He attributed Moukhtar Pasha's defeat to his having left his strong positions, too much encouraged by his previous successes. I have no news from Kemball, but have telegraphed to him not to remain in Kars should the place be threatened with investment. Sultan assures me that Kars is provisioned for eight months.

No. 172.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 81.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1877.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country, which has been communicated to me by M. Gennadius.* In this despatch M. Tricoupi states that the Greek Minister at Constantinople has been instructed to protest against martial law being applied to foreign subjects in Turkey, and requests the co-operation of Her Majesty's Government.

I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are not informed how this question of martial law in Turkey stands, but that inquiry will be made of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government to be a matter in which all the Powers are concerned, and not merely a question between Greece and the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 173.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 83.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1877.*

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction from your despatch No. 250 of the 4th instant, that the Nomarch and Eparch of Acarnania have been removed from their posts, and that some of the Greek troops are being withdrawn from the frontier and sent to the camp at Thebes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 174.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 607.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1877.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of correspondence relative to the intention of the Greek Government to protest against the application of the provisions of martial law to foreign subjects in Turkey,† and I have to request that you will inform me how this matter now stands.

* No. 96.

† Nos. 98 and 172.

Copies of your despatch No. 1087, Confidential, of 17th September, and of my reply No. 544 A of 21st September, have been confidentially communicated to Mr. Wyndham.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 175.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 609.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1877.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1169 of the 3rd instant, in which you report that Sir A. Kemball is inclined to disbelieve the statement made by Mr. Consul Zohrab in one of his despatches to the effect that orders had been given by the Porte to the Commanders of the army in Armenia not to spare any of the male inhabitants above 10 years of age after crossing the Russian frontier, and I have to request that your Excellency will instruct Mr. Zohrab to give the authority on which his statement was founded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 176.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 610.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1877.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1160 of the 2nd instant, forwarding an address in Turkish to the British nation, which had been placed in your hands by an Ulema, Ahmed Tevfic Effendi, and with reference to the request contained in the letter addressed to yourself begging that it may be published in the newspapers, I have to state to you that it will be laid before Parliament at the opening of the next Session.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 611.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 18, 1877.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Kertch,* stating that, in spite of the Turkish blockade of the Russian ports in the Black Sea and Sea of Azof, three Greek vessels have recently arrived at Kertch, taken in grain, and sailed again for Constantinople, and I have to request that you will bring these facts to the notice of the Porte.

Copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Odessa relative to the same subject are likewise inclosed for your information.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 178.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1176. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 8, 1877.*

I AM informed from a confidential source that the Grand Vizier has sent a telegram to Prince Milan to the following effect:—

"The Sublime Porte is convinced that your Highness has not forgotten the constant marks of solicitude that Servia has at all times received from the Imperial Government,

* Mr. Barrow, No. 11, Commercial, October 1.
† Mr. Stanley, No. 66, October 10; No. 69, October 13.

of which the most recent proof is the conclusion of a peace by which the Porte consented to the re-establishment of the *status quo* pure and simple.

"The Imperial Government had a right to expect that Servia would not only scrupulously observe her engagements, but that she would maintain, under present circumstances, an attitude calculated to offer every guarantee to the Suzerain Court. It is, therefore, with the greatest regret that the Porte has perceived that immediately after the peace the Government of the Prince was occupied in making fresh armaments and military preparations, which have latterly been considerably increased, and have caused at Constantinople the most painful and the most unfavourable impression. We have, for instance, learnt that the militia has been called to arms, that the Servian fortresses have been provisioned, and that troops have been concentrated at certain places.

"It is true that the Servian Government has always replied to our representations on this subject by the most pacific assurances, transmitted to us through its Agent at Constantinople, but we have found with regret that the facts are not in harmony with them.

"I do not hesitate to address myself directly to your Highness and to appeal to your loyalty, in the conviction that you will recognize the necessity for removing ("écarter") all that may be contrary to the good relations so happily re-established between Servia and the Suzerain Court, which are the most certain pledge for the security and prosperity of the Principality."

I am further informed that the original draft of this telegram contained much stronger expressions as to the conduct of Servia, and that the Grand Vizier himself softened them with an earnest desire not to give cause of complaint to the Prince.

I have acquainted Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade with the substance of this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 179.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1177.) *Therapia, October 8, 1877.*

My Lord,

AMONGST the complaints of the Hellenic Government against the Porte, referred to in my despatch No. 1156 of the 1st instant, is one respecting an alleged attack upon the house of the Greek Consul at Larissa by Bashi-Bazouks. As I informed your Lordship, the Porte had sent repeated telegrams to the authorities at that place asking for a report on the subject. I am now told by Server Pasha that the Pasha of Janina, in whose government Larissa is included, positively states that no attack of any kind was ever made or contemplated on the Greek Consular residence by the Bashi-Bazouks, and they were never even near it.

The Consul is alleged to have hastily quitted the town, apparently from fear, and had thus given rise to the supposition that he had been threatened with some real danger. Such is the explanation of the Porte.

I have not yet received any official information as to this matter from the British Vice-Consul at Volo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 180.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1178.) *Therapia, October 8, 1877.*

My Lord,

CONSUL BARKER informs me in a private letter (I have not yet received his official report) that Vice-Consul "Suter reports the arrival at Larissa of 1,200 more Gnega horse and foot Bashi Bazouks, some of whom refused to camp out, and, in seeking for lodgings, attempted to force an entrance into the Greek Vice-Consul's residence 'avec mauvaise intention,' he says, but the door resisted their efforts. An agent of the police, Hallil Agha, was with them. No redress whatever was obtained.

"The following is the number of irregular Albanian and other troops which have come to Thessaly.

At Larissa—	
Horse	300
Foot	900
At Karditza—	
Horse	100
Foot	300
At Katzuri—	
Horse	40
Foot	150
At Pharsala—	
Horse	15
Foot	50
At Ayah—	
Horse	27
At Tricala—	
Foot	500
Pennes and Cadiza—	
Foot	1,250
Horse	400
Horse and foot "Gregtes"	5,972

"Besides these men, 1,200 Zoilucks, foot, were landed last week at Volo from Smyrna, and 3,000 more are expected of the same, and 2,000 Albanians from Debra, so that before the Balcan 10,000 Bashi-Bazouks will overrun the country on the alarm of Greek invasion, of which there does not seem to be the least appearance.

"The Government has received 1,000 revolvers from Constantinople (American); they are selling them at the Palace at the rate of 3 medjidiés apiece to the Mussulmans and 80 cartridges; 2,000 more are expected."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 181.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1179. Confidential.) *Therapia, October 8, 1877.*

My Lord,

MR. SANDISON, whom I had directed to speak to the Grand Vizier and Server Pasha, during my short absence from Constantinople at Besika Bay, with respect to the relations between the Porte and Greece, and to urge upon them the importance of avoiding any misunderstanding with that country, informs me that they have both expressed themselves to him more satisfied with the Greek Government than they have lately been, owing to the considerate manner in which it has acted in regard to the affair of Skultcho-yani, referred to in my despatch to your Lordship No. 1147 of September 29.

They said that M. Tricoupi had informed Photiades Bey that the Hellenic Government, anticipating the wishes of the Porte, had not only taken steps for the punishment of the officers and soldiers who have been held responsible for the escape of this person, at the head of a revolutionary band, into Epirus, but had even dismissed the Prefect of the district where he was imprisoned.

Server Pasha, however, appeared at first fully resolved to take a strong line as regards the Greek Consul in Crete, who, as described in my despatch to your Lordship No. 1133 of September 20, is accused of having protected a Cretan, alleged to be an Ottoman subject, and had assisted him in joining a meeting of malcontents with compromising papers. His Excellency seemed determined to expel the Consul from the island in the event of the Hellenic Government refusing to recall him.

Mr. Sandison, who had been instructed by me to do his utmost to induce the Porte not to take any step which might lead to a rupture with Greece, pointed out to his Excellency that it would be desirable to address a further remonstrance to the Hellenic Government before having recourse to so extreme a measure. His Excellency replied that, before taking further action, he would give the matter full consideration.

I am happy to say that Mr. Sandison found his Excellency the following day disposed to think that there was a prospect of the affair being satisfactorily settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

No. 182.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1182.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1877.*

AS I was anxious to ascertain the condition of the northern districts of Roumelia invaded by the Russian forces, with a view to affording relief from Baroness Burdett Coutts' "compassionate fund," I asked Consul Blunt to be good enough to visit them. He has done so, and I have the honour to inclose some extracts from a report he has addressed to me. Mr. Blunt was able to distribute food and clothes to the women and children who were most in need of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Extract.) *Kyzanlik, October 4, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Adrianople on the 26th September last, and arrived at Yeni-Zaghra on the 28th, having visited on the way the following villages:—

Karibournr, Jidi Gol, Lefedgi, Carali, Akiar, Radna, Gunenli-Gunenli, Mahalessi, Torlak Mahalessi, and Enjek, all more or less burnt.

On the 29th I visited the following villages in the vicinity of Yeni-Zaghra:—

Cadi-kioi, Omourtcha, Nipiasli, Nalbantlar, Uren, Caimakli, and Giortuch, all of which, with the exception of Giortuch, I found partially or wholly destroyed.

Giortuch is a Bulgarian village of 300 houses, an hour's distance from Yeni-Zaghra. It is at present occupied by Turkish fugitives, the Bulgarian inhabitants having retired with the Russians over the Balkans.

I left Yeni-Zaghra on the 30th September, and encamped at Ferdiçé, having visited Ilidja on the way, which I found burnt and deserted.

Next day, October 1, I encamped at Hain-kioi, in the vicinity of Hain-Boghaz (Pass), and had an opportunity of seeing the General in command there, Shukri Pasha, from whom I obtained useful information relative to the villages requiring assistance.

I should also add that I received from him, as well as from the authorities, civil and military, of all the places I have visited, every possible assistance in connection with the object of my tour.

At Ferditche and Hain-kioi I found the Turkish peasantry in good circumstances, and harvesting their crops.

Next morning, October 2, I visited Yeni-Mahale and Ollanli, and distributed relief to 90 destitute women and children in the former place, and 212 in the latter, where I also encamped for the night, and procured details regarding the horrible atrocities perpetrated there by the Bulgarians and Cossacks on the Mahomedan inhabitants of that and other villages.

Next day I proceeded to Kyzanlik, and visited on the way Yaikanli and Muhlis (the scene of appalling massacres of Mahomedan men and women), and distributed relief to 195 persons in the former village, and to 158 in the latter.

I instructed Mr. Edmund Calvert to inquire into and collect information, to be embodied in a special report, regarding the destruction of life and property in the villages we have already visited.

The Toundja valley, which I have known as the richest and most prosperous and flourishing district in European Turkey, by the barbarous proceedings of the Cossacks and Bulgarians, and by the reprisals of the Circassians and Turkish irregulars, has been reduced to a very Golgotha, lying in the midst of ashes and widespread desolation.

No. 183.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1183.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Consul Blunt, covering despatches from Vice-Consul Calvert. It only reached me last night. I am having a Memorandum made of the facts mentioned by Mr. Calvert, which I shall place in the hands of Server Pasha. I do not believe in the statement attributed to Ibrahim Pasha that "the Sultan was filled with a deep hatred of the Bulgarians, and had given him orders to use unsparing punishment." Such sentiments are entirely at variance with the repeated assurances given to me by His Majesty, and with His Majesty's well-known feelings of justice and humanity. I shall avail myself of an opportunity of bringing to His Majesty's notice the conduct of Ibrahim Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Kyzanlik, October 4, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert's report of the 15th ultimo, upon the executions of Philippopoli, and upon the conduct of the military authorities in that district.

I also inclose a further report from the same gentleman of the 16th ultimo, relative to the non-removal of the Gueshoglus to Constantinople.

I would venture respectfully to observe to your Excellency that under present circumstances foreign intervention on behalf of Bulgarian political prisoners seems to do more harm than good. The language of certain newspaper correspondents has, moreover, tended further to endanger the lives of the Gueshoglus, which your Excellency's cautious and unofficial intercession had nearly succeeded in saving.

The Turkish authorities, especially the military, show themselves most susceptible with regard to any action or remarks affecting their duties in connection with the administration of martial law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Philippopoli, September 15, 1877.*

THE state of affairs in this district has, I deeply lament to report, become during the last fortnight deplorable in the extreme. Since the arrival of Ibrahim Pasha as Military Commandant of the district, the Mutessarif, whose energy had till then been successful in, to a great extent, preserving order, has been deprived of all but the semblance of authority.

The Military Commandant, a brother-in-law of the Sultan, and acting, he has informed me, under the direct orders of His Majesty, considers himself justified in almost ignoring the Mutessarif, particularly during the last few days, since the notifications of Abdul Hamid Pasha's recall. He favours, I regret to say, the views of the most violent section of the party which calls for vengeance on the Bulgarians; amongst which party the destruction, root and branch, of the Bulgarian race is openly advocated. It is on the information which he receives from persons of this stamp that Bulgarians are arrested and tried; and, considering the summary way in which the trials are carried on, it is beyond a doubt that many innocent persons must suffer with the guilty. The Vice-President of the tribunal, Rifaat Pasha, while of a more sober character, is equally violent against the Bulgarians; and I am firmly convinced that these two officials are mainly responsible for the lawlessness now existing in this neighbourhood.

The number of executions in the town of Philippopoli has already reached 125, chiefly of Bulgarians from the town of Carlova; and seventeen individuals under sentence are to be executed within a day or two at Tatar-Bazardjik, Carlova, and Stanimaka, and Tchirpan.

The executions have taken place in the following order:—On the 22nd August, five; 23rd August, six; 24th August, five; 28th August, thirty; 29th August, ten; 4th September, sixteen; 5th September, eight; 7th September, sixteen; 9th September, six; 11th September, twelve; 13th September, three.

It is reported to me, not by Christians alone, but by Turks, that beating and other violent methods are used to make the accused confess the crimes with which they are

charged. I have no means of proving the truth of this statement; but comparing with it the statements made to me by Ibrahim and Rifaat Pashas when I inquired on what evidence the prisoners were convicted, I am led to believe it to be not altogether without foundation. Their Excellencies both assured me that the prisoners themselves confess all their crimes.

Upon the improbability of such simple and unanimous candour on the part of the prisoners it is needless for me to dwell.

Were Ibrahim Pasha to confine himself to pronouncing sweepingly severe sentences on the prisoners who have the misfortune to be brought before him, he might be justified on the plea that it is necessary to crush out, once and for good, all rebellious tendencies on the part of the Bulgarians; but it is surely inconsistent with the dignity of a person in his position that he should daily drive past the numerous gallows used for the execution of the Bulgarians, scanning deliberately the appearance of each unfortunate suspended therefrom, and showing the public his exultation at the spectacle by scoraful laughter.

It is painful for me to write in this strain, but I cannot forbear from recording facts which have excited general indignation in this town.

Encouraged by the example of the Commandant, the Mussulman "roughs" amuse themselves by pelting the bodies of the executed Bulgarians and otherwise misusing them.

Previous to Ibrahim Pasha's arrival the bodies were never left hanging more than an hour, and the executions took place in the early morning; now the hour of the executions has been advanced to near midday, and the corpses remain suspended from three to four hours. I was shocked the other day, on my way to the Konak, to see cigarettes thrust between the fingers of two priests who had been hanged that morning, and observed that the soldiers who, in virtue of an order issued before Ibrahim Pasha's arrival, are supposed to stand guard round the bodies, were lounging about with an air of utter indifference. I brought the fact to the notice of Ibrahim Pasha, expressing a hope that he would put an end to such scandalous proceedings, but regret to say that he appeared unconcerned at my statement, and failed to hold out any assurances that the scandal should cease.

With such a man in possession of supreme authority I find it useless to appeal to the Mutessarif on the subject of the prevailing lawlessness, the latter functionary being now powerless, and I feel that to address Ibrahim Pasha would be of still less avail.

Without going into details I may state that the villages of this district, particularly the Christian villages, are at the mercy of roving bands of Circassians and other irregulars, who rob, kill, and outrage with impunity. Although the Mussulman population of the town continues to show generally the most gratifying freedom from fanaticism towards the Christians, the same cannot be said as regards the villages, where great oppression has begun to be exercised by the Turks over the lately exultant Bulgarians.

At Krastowo, a village wantonly destroyed by the Bashi-Bazouks last year, two Bulgarians were the other day murdered, and one wounded. At the same time a Turk of a neighbouring village lately released from prison, where he had spent several years for the murder of a Bulgarian of Krastowo, sent word to the relatives of his victim that, unless a considerable sum of money were paid by them to him, he would burn down their houses and murder them.

A Greek doctor lately resident at Otlouk-Keui has quitted that village, being afraid to stay in it any longer, and has come here. He states that about a fortnight ago a body of irregulars, on their way to Plevna, passed through Otlouk-Keui, where they plundered a number of houses and ravished all the women in one quarter of the town. He adds that, in the neighbourhood of Otlouk-Keui murders and robberies are now constantly occurring.

I have to-day had an application from Gherghi Kolnoglou, a young man of the village of Adjar, in the district of Kurudjie Dagh, whom his Mussulman neighbours have tried to press into apostacy.

He states that Adjar was completely destroyed last month, and most of the inhabitants, who were all Bulgars, massacred by the Bashi-Bazouks and the inhabitants of neighbouring Turkish villages. Hardly a man remains alive in the village, and only about 200 women and children. Many of the young women had been carried off by the Turks. The Turks had offered to let Ghergi live if he would become a Mussulman; he pretended to consent, and was brought hither with his mother, but, on being taken before the mollah, asked for time to think over the matter, and was accordingly allowed to proceed to the Bulgarian Bishop's house, where he is now staying, afraid to stir out.

Adjar was a flourishing village of 700 houses; the neighbouring Bulgarian village of Ruhumdi was, it appears, destroyed at the same time, and was also the scene of a massacre.

Rahmanli contains 400 houses. The people of the latter place had, I believe, compromised themselves by acts of outrage upon neighbouring Mussulmans; but I cannot find that Adjar was in any way deserving of punishment.

M. Fawcett's observations on the state of Carlova and Sopot are, no doubt, already known to you. I need not, therefore, add anything about the condition of those places.

I have said enough to show that a state of things approaching to anarchy prevails in many parts of this Sandjak (the northern portions, the southern districts being still comparatively quiet), and also to show that the military authorities are to blame for this state of things; the utter unfitness of those authorities for their present mission I have, perhaps, strongly, but not inadequately described.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 183.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopoli, September 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in answer to a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador inquiring whether the Gueshoglous were in danger of their lives, and whether orders had been received from Constantinople to send them thither, I yesterday telegraphed to his Excellency in cypher, as follows:—

"Gueshoglous are to leave this afternoon by extraordinary train for Constantinople."

I yesterday sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador a further cyphered telegram, announcing the non-departure of the Gueshoglous, in consequence, as I was informed, of counter-instructions from Suleiman Pasha; but the message was returned to me with an intimation that no cyphered communication could be accepted, and I accordingly sent the following open telegram:—

"In consequence, I am told, of counter-instructions from Suleiman Pasha, the Gueshoglous were not sent yesterday after all. Ibrahim Pasha, Military Commandant of Philippopoli, left for Constantinople."

This morning I received notice from the telegraph office that my cyphered telegram of the 14th instant had been stopped at Constantinople by superior orders.

After an interview to-day with the Mutessarif, I telegraphed to Mr. Layard as follows:—

"Gueshoglous' non-departure hence was in spite of reiterated orders sent to the Mutessarif. Ibrahim Pasha said he would be responsible for non-fulfilment of orders."

Ibrahim Pasha being, as he has himself informed me, under the direct orders of the Sultan, and acknowledging no other superior, it is probable that his Excellency intends to represent the Gueshoglou case from his own point of view to His Majesty. Ibrahim Pasha has, from the first, I understand, resented such representations—friendly and courteous as I have endeavoured to make them—as I have ventured to address to him on the subject of the severity with which he has treated the Bulgarians pointed out to him as sympathisers with, or abettors of, insurrectionary schemes. Alive to the probability that unscrupulous individuals amongst the Mussulmans would seize the present opportunity of indulging private animosities by bringing accusations against innocent Bulgarians, I have tried to impress him with the necessity of discriminating between true and false charges; but in this attempt I regret to say that I have been unsuccessful. His Excellency informed me, in reply to my observations, that the Sultan was filled with a deep hatred of the Bulgarians, His Majesty had given him orders to use unsparing punishment; and, as to any Bulgarians being innocent, that was not admissible. "Ils sont tous coupables, M. le Consul," he said to me; "ils sont tous compromis."

The levity of Ibrahim Pasha's behaviour and conversation here, while engaged on so serious and responsible a mission as that of President of the Military Tribunal, has given pain to the Christians of all denominations, and also elicited expressions of reprobation from several Mussulman gentlemen of my acquaintance, whose sense of justice has not been altogether perverted by what they hear and see of Russo-Bulgarian cruelties.

As regards the Gueshoglous, I fear that Ibrahim Pasha will exert every effort to prevent their removal from Philippopolis, and I take the liberty to suggest that direct representations to the Sultan from Her Majesty's Ambassador would be the only means of bringing about their transfer to Constantinople.

A report has been spread here that they are to be sent to the Turkish camp at Shipka. Improbable as such a rumour may seem, it is not altogether impossible that some such

plan may be entertained, considering that fourteen of the Bulgarians brought here from Carlowa were the other day sent in chains to Suleiman Pasha, and that that General has of late interfered in the affairs of this sandjak to the extent, I understand, of advising the removal of the present Mutessarif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 184.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1184.)
Therapia, October 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Sankey. It would be important to ascertain whether his information that 80,000 Russian troops are now in the Dobrudja is to be relied on. The reports received at Constantinople do not certainly confirm it, and Sir Collingwood Dickson is of opinion that the numbers given by Mr. Sankey must be very much exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard.

Kustendji, September 21, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE nothing new to report since my last letter to your Excelleney with the exception of the arrival of part of the 7th corps from Matchin: the rest is expected in a few days, so that the force in the Dobrudja will now be raised to 80,000.

The cavalry outposts scout to within sight of Kavarna to the south, and Bazardjik to the west, and occasionally meet a few Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians. The country is quiet and the behaviour of the Russian troops excellent; since they have been in the country, I have not heard of a single complaint against them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. S. SANKEY.

No. 185.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1187.)
Therapia, October 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople, reporting the number of executions of Bulgarians that had taken place in that province since the 25th September.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 185.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, October 5, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that no public executions have taken place in this city since the 25th ultimo, but according to ecclesiastical authority I am informed that thirty-one Bulgarians were condemned by the Adrianople Court-martial between that and the present date, and conveyed for execution to different towns and villages in this province as per annexed list.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

List of Bulgarians condemned by Adrianople Court-Martial and Executed in different District Towns since the 25th September, 1877.

Friday, September 28.

Fourteen individuals, names not given, were executed in the neighbourhood of Yeni-Zaghra.

Monday, October 1.

Two individuals, names not given, were executed at Uzunkiupru.

Thursday, October 4.

Two: Haggi Slavé, of Indschékeuy, near Yeni-Zaghra, innkeeper, age 80, was executed at Uzunkiupru; Yantcho, of Soufli, tradesman, age 40, was executed at Inkendjekeuy.

Thirteen individuals, names not given, were executed Uzunkiupru and Hafsa.

Thirty-one in all.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, October 5, 1877.

No. 186.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1188.)
Therapia, October 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa relating to the state of affairs at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, September 29, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that Skefferi, Kavelli, and the four brothers Kutzufaki, have been banished to Monastir. It is also very probable that the same measure will be taken with respect to Charissi and Tolia, as they were sent to Arta on Sunday last.

A Greek boat from Karavossara, with 400 rifles, under the charge of a lieutenant, for the garrison at Missolonghi, touched here yesterday on her way out, but the Mutessarif will not allow her to proceed on her journey; he even demanded of the Greek Vice-Consul that the rifles should be landed and deposited in the military store-house. This has brought forth a protest on the part of the Greek Vice-Consul.

A change of posts between the Mutessarif of Prevesa, Fikri Bey, and the Mutessarif of Debri (North Albania) is to take place. This change is looked upon with much satisfaction by the Christians, especially as Hassan Pasha is a native of Prevesa, and is, moreover, well acquainted with the Greek language, so that his arrival is anxiously expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 187.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1189.)
Therapia, October 9, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 515 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copies of two despatches which I have received from Colonel Lennox, in

reply to a despatch from me asking for information on the subject, in which he states that Russians, both wounded and unwounded, have been made prisoners by the Turkish troops, and denies that no quarter is given by the latter. He expresses his belief, however, that the Bashi-Bazouks, who are under no military control, do slaughter the Russian wounded, and mangle the dead bodies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 187.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Rustchuk, September 29, 1877.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 25th instant, I beg to report that it is incorrect to say that no Russian prisoners have been made during the war, for I myself have seen several, and so have Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., Captain Fraser, R.E., and Captain Molloy, Bengal Staff Corps. The prisoners we saw were taken at Sistova, near Eski-Djuma, Karahassankoi, at Kaeeljevo, and at Osikova.

The statement that the Russian wounded are slaughtered by the Turkish soldiers on the field of battle is also, I consider, quite incorrect; at all events, some of the prisoners we have seen have been wounded men.

The fact of wounded and unwounded Russian prisoners being in the hands of the Turks proves that it is not true that no quarter is given on the side of the Turks.

His Excellency Mehemet Ali Pasha informed Captain Fraser, R.E., that after the attack on Bejin Verboka, on the 21st, a Pole employed burying the dead told some Turks similarly employed that the Turkish wounded were being well taken care of, and therefore it is evident that Russians also give quarter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 187.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Rustchuk, September 30, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE in my letter of the 29th September replied, as regards the Turkish army, to the question contained in your Excellency's despatch of the 25th instant, but I refrained in it from referring to the armed peasantry, who on foot and on horseback hover about the outskirts of the Turkish army, and are usually known by the name of Bashi-Bazouks.

These men are not under any military control whatever, but as many people imagine that they are irregular soldiers, the credit of the army suffers.

They do not fight, but whenever they flock from all parts to the scene, the news spreads, and shoals of these scoundrels hasten from distant places to the battle-field. Those first on the field follow the troops at a distance, and although I cannot state it as a fact, yet I firmly believe that they do slaughter the Russian wounded, mangle their dead, and strip their bodies of everything of the slightest value.

For days after these vultures are to be seen searching over the field, and if there is any brushwood they may be seen forming line and regularly beating it, so that not a corpse may be left undiscovered.

On the roads leading from the locality these Bashi-Bazouks, on horse and on foot, may be seen departing heavily laden with booty to their homes, or to some town where there is a sale for the articles.

These men, besides taking the clothes from the bodies, appropriate the rifles, arms, &c., found on the field, and thus prevent these trophies of war being collected by the military authorities.

I have heard through an European eye-witness, that at the attack on Bezin Verboca, on the 21st instant, five Russians were taken prisoners by the troops and sent to the rear. When about two kilometres in rear of the line they were set upon by Bashi-Bazouks, and four out of the five were slaughtered by them, the fifth only escaping a similar fate through the arrival of a Turkish officer, who drew his sword and beat off the Bashi-Bazouks.

The only way of preventing these scenes of pillage and acts of barbarity that I can suggest would be the appointment of Provost Marshals, and the formation of military police. I have repeatedly and most strongly directed the attention of Mehemet Ali Pasha to the subject, and urged him to take steps in the matter. His Excellency has agreed that the formation of a military police would be the most efficient way of putting a stop to these excesses.

I made inquiries and gave his Excellency the name of a Turkish officer who, I was told, would be likely to make a good Provost Marshal, and I reminded him that he had several squadrons of mounted zaptiehs (police) with the army, but still nothing has, as far as I am aware, yet been done in the matter. The dread of these Bashi-Bazouks (and also of the Circassians, who must, I fear, be admitted to be irregular troops) has, it is said, tended to demoralize the Russian troops, and has thus done some service to the Turkish cause, but prisoners say that there are many thousand Poles in the Russian army who would desert if it were not for their fear of falling into the hands of these villanous cut-throats.

I am aware that some of the Turkish Generals of Division, particularly when at Vodica, made personal efforts to drive away these ruffians, and in some cases had them bastinadoed on the roads where they met them with plunder, but such isolated efforts are of small avail.

I am, &c.
(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

No. 188.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 1190.)

Therapia, October 9, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto to Her Majesty's Consul-General and Judge at Constantinople, on the subject of Circassian outrages in his district. I shall take an early opportunity of bringing Mr. Dussi's statements to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Mr. Fawcett.

Rodosto, le 1 *Octobre*, 1877.

M. le Consul-Général,

AVANT hier je vous ai lancé une dépêche à propos du rapt qui a eu lieu à Seutari.

Aujourd'hui je viens vous donner les détails de cette affaire; détails recueillis de la bouche même des villageois.

Vendredi, vers 5 heures du soir, douze Circassiens (et non trente comme l'on m'avait d'abord informé) entraient dans le village, et après avoir tiré 300 coups de fusil, dont l'un traversait la main d'un jeune homme et la balle allait se loger dans la poitrine, ils enlevaient trente ôtages parmi les plus notables de l'endroit, qui se trouvaient au café avec un zaptié venu pour l'encaissement des impôts.

Le zaptié, qui se permit de leur faire une observation, fut rudement maltraité et bâtonné. Les ôtages furent relachés. Le lendemain ils venaient ici se plaindre au Gouverneur. On leur avait enlevé une somme de 13,600 piastres, dont 11,000 encaissées pour compte du Gouvernement et on leur a dit que si dans huit jours ils ne se trouvaient pas prêts à payer une somme de 100,000 piastres, ils reviendraient 300, et auraient mis le village en feu et en sang.

Le Gouverneur y a envoyé sept zaptiés. Seutari est un village Chrétien à cinq heures de Rodosto, de 800 maisons.

Or, il y a une vingtaine de jours, quelques notables, ayant appris de bonne source que des Circassiens étaient intentionnés de pénétrer dans leur village, présentaient une pétition au Gouverneur demandant l'autorisation de se défendre en cas d'attaque. Malgré que ce fut en cas de légitime défense, ils furent éconduits avec ces paroles dites par notre

Mutessarif, Izet Bey: "Vous ne devez rien faire, vous m'aviserez quand ils viendront, et je vous enverrai une escouade de zaptié."

Hier ils entraient dans le village de Simitli, village Chrétien à cinq heures d'ici, y enlevaient seize paires de bœufs, des chevaux, et proféraient les mêmes menaces qu'à Scutari.

A Naipkieui, village Chrétien à trois heures d'ici, ils étaient reçus par la population armée, qui ne les laissait pas entrer.

Ils se présentaient à Panados, village Chrétien à une heure d'ici, et malgré la présence de sept zaptiés, ils pillaient un magasin.

Enfin, hier en un endroit nommé Tchifté-suyu, à vingt minutes d'ici, on arrêtait et dévalisait plus de trent personnes.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 189.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1191.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 9, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, on the subject of the arrival of guns for the Bulair lines, and the discontent caused by the forced labour of the villagers upon the works.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No 189.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Gallipoli, le 26 Septembre, 1877.*

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le Caïmacam de Kessan, dont j'ai fait mention dans ma dépêche du 8 de ce mois, a été remplacé.

Hier est arrivé de Constantinople un grand chaland, remorqué par le bateau "Damaskini," portant vingt-sept canons Krupp dont trois du calibre de 15 centim. et vingt-quatre de 8 centim. Ces pièces sont toutes en très bon état et sont destinées à la ligne de défense de Boulair.

J'ai eu le regret de constater personnellement, en cette circonstance, que les soldats Turcs et les zaptiés commettent des actes de violence contre les Chrétiens et les Juifs qu'ils obligent à la corvée. J'ai sauvé moi-même deux personnes que les zaptiés battaient à coups de bâtons.

Quelques mots que j'ai entendus de la bouche du Président de la Commission chargée de pourvoir aux besoins des fortifications m'ont donné à comprendre que les zaptiés sont autorisés à agir de la sorte.

Pas un seul Turc n'a été forcé à travailler. Cet état de choses jette le mécontentement parmi les populations Chrétiennes, dont les esprits sont déjà aigris par suite de ce qu'elles ont eu à souffrir de la corvée imposée pour les travaux de la ligne de défense. En effet, les habitants Chrétiens des villages du Caza de Gallipoli ont eu beaucoup à souffrir de cette corvée, car non seulement elles ont du fournir les hommes requis à quatre jours de travail chacun, mais encore elles ont du fournir les charriots, bœufs, chevaux, &c. Les champs ne sont pas encore labourés, et si les requisitions du gros bétail continuent encore pour quelques temps la majeure partie des villages de ce caza ne pourra pas faire les ensemencements.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) AMIL. ODONI.

No. 190.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1192.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Larnaca respecting the forced war loan imposed upon the inhabitants of Cyprus, and the enrolment of Redifs in that island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 190.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larnaca, October 2, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Governor of Cyprus has received instructions to carry out the provisions of the Imperial Iradé respecting the forced loan, sanctioned in order to meet the expenses of the war.

The amount to be collected from the inhabitants of this island will be equal to the proceeds of the land tax ("Emlak"), and of the tax on industry ("Temetuat"), estimated at about 3,500,000 piastres.

This loan is to be repaid in twelve years, with interest at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and a sinking fund of 5 per cent.

Much difficulty is anticipated in its collection, owing to the heavy taxations already endured during the current year, and to the general poverty of the island caused by a great failure in the crops and the high prices of bread stuffs, which have attained thus far more than double the ordinary rates, and will, it is feared, be still dearer in the winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) — WATKINS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 190.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larnaca, October 2, 1877.*

REFERRING to the despatch which I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on the 3rd ultimo with regard to the enrolment of 2,450 Redifs, I beg to inform you that 330 of these were dispatched to the Dardanelles by the Austrian steamer of the 5th September, and a further detachment of forty-five will embark to-day for the same destination.

I have mentioned the circumstance of the Redifs to your Excellency, as this is the first time that a call has been made upon the patriotism of the reserve in the Island of Cyprus.

The excitement produced amongst the Christians by threats and disorders on the part of Redifs and other Mussulmans has subsided, and I am glad to report to your Excellency that at present tranquillity and confidence in the exertions of the Governor for its maintenance prevail throughout the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) — WATKINS.

No. 191.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 1193.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 10, 1877.*

I AM informed that it has been decided in a Council of Ministers, after a long discussion, to restore the arms and ammunition seized by the Turkish authorities on board a Greek vessel in the entrance, at Prevesa, to the Gulf of Arta. The Porte, in taking this decision, reserves the question of its right to close the passage into the gulf,

and comes to it on the ground that the vessel on which the arms were found was a merchant ship, and that she was stopped during the day and not after nightfall.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 192.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

Gorny Studen, October 16, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
EMPEROR has received news of complete defeat of Moukhtar Pasha's army, which has also been cut off from Kars.

No. 193.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

Gorny Studen, October 16, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
RUSSIAN authorities hear from trustworthy sources that the following English officers, on full pay, are serving in Turkish army:—

Colonels.—Earle (Erle?), Yahir Beg, Shuldham.

Majors.—M. Fawcett, A. Fawcett, Synge.

Captains.—Havelock, Williams, Coope, D. Whitley, Swire, Blunt, Briscoe, Jones, Huddy, Norton, Douglas (Scotch Engineer), Johnston (Topographical Corps).

Lieutenants.—Muchowson, Macleod, Jones, Russell, Noel, Davis.

Adjutant-Majors.—Harris, Macdonald, Ziver Bey, Jenner; and

Surgeon.—Smith.

I gather that they are retired officers serving in Turkish gendarmerie, and have said so. May I contradict?

Last division of Guards just arrived, and Guard cavalry sent to operate against the Turkish position on the Loftcha road.

Grand Duke Michael reports that three Turkish divisions surrendered with thirty-two guns; and that Moukhtar Pasha fled alone to Kars.

No. 194.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

Tiflis, October 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
OFFICIAL telegram says that Turkish army under Moukhtar Pasha is destroyed; if this be true, Erzeroum will be open, and corps of Ismail Pasha will be in danger. Turk (?) did wrong not to concentrate his forces. Can error be remedied? There are at least seventy battalions in neighbourhood of Kars. Rebellion continues; large force sent from Astrakan to protect Baku.

No. 195.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 445.) *Therapia, October* 19, 1877, 8·45 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE heard from Kemball, who is at Kars, but his telegram cannot be decyphered.

No. 196.

Lieutenant-Colonel Siborne to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 19.)

Sulina, October 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th October concerning Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," and to despatch of the 16th reporting Russian attack on Sulina, Commission have received following telegram in French from their Engineer dispatched from Varna on the 17th:—

"All is in good order: property of Commission must have suffered, at all events about twenty shells fallen into the town: no casualty, but some ill-constructed houses damaged. 'Cockatrice' received yesterday orders from Admiral Hornby to quit Danube."

No. 197.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 260.) *Athens, October* 12, 1877.
My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Tricoupi, the Hellenic Minister for Foreign Affairs, informed me this afternoon that the Hellenic Government was thinking of purchasing some ships of war in Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 198.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 261.) *Athens, October* 13, 1877.
My Lord,
HAVING seen a statement in the public press to the effect that a Committee composed of naval men had been recently appointed to draw up a scheme for coast defences, and for the increase of the navy, and having also heard a report that the Greek Government had decided to buy some torpedo launches and some ships of war of the class of Her Majesty's ships "Slaih" and "Raleigh," I asked M. Tricoupi yesterday if there was any truth in the report.

His Excellency replied that it was quite necessary for Greece to have some ships, and in reply to my inquiry as to where the Government intended to purchase the ships, he said in Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 199.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 262.) *Athens, October* 13, 1877.
My Lord,
WITH reference to my despatch No. 250 of the 4th instant, in which I reported to your Lordship that the Nomarch and Eparch of Acarnania had been dismissed from their respective offices for not having shown sufficient energy and vigilance to prevent the formation of lawless bands, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that a very stringent law for the repression of brigandage, which was passed on February 27 (o.s.), 1871, has been lately put into force by Royal Decree for a period of eight months. One of the clauses in this law is excessively severe, as it empowers the authorities to seize and banish the family or relatives of a person engaging in acts of brigandage.

I think the revival of this law at the present time is an additional proof of the wish of the Government of this country to prevent any lawless acts of aggression upon Turkish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 200.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 263.)
Athens, October 13, 1877.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has forwarded to me copy of his despatch to your Lordship No. 1185 of the 9th instant, in which his Excellency incloses an extract from the "Phare du Bosphore," purporting to be the translation of a letter addressed by Mr. Layard to the Greek Minister at Constantinople, with regard to a statement contained in one of Mr. Layard's despatches published in the Blue Book on Turkish affairs, that prisoners had been released from the Greek prisons and sent to Greece to serve as volunteers against Turkey.

The letter, as published in the "Phare du Bosphore," appeared in a Greek newspaper, the "Stoa," on September $\frac{14}{26}$, and in a subsequent number of the same paper of September $\frac{19}{28}$, a statement was published to the effect that the first letter was inexact and should not have borne Mr. Layard's signature, and that it was only the intention of the editor to give the precise contents of a letter known to have been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I have the honour to inclose copies and translation of the publications on this subject from the newspaper in question.

I spoke to M. Tricoupi yesterday on the matter, and asked his Excellency how the "Stoa" newspaper had obtained the information?

His Excellency replied, that as it was not in the interest of the Greek Government that the fact of Mr. Layard having addressed a letter on the subject at issue to M. Condouriotti should not be made known, he had mentioned its contents to several persons; that he had seen the publication in the "Stoa," but that he did not know how to contradict it without publishing the letter itself, and that he did not think himself authorized to do so. M. Tricoupi at the same time expressed himself as ready to adopt any course in the matter which I thought might be agreeable to Mr. Layard.

I said that Mr. Layard was much annoyed at M. Condouriotti not having taken any steps to have the letter contradicted, but that I could not offer any further suggestions, Mr. Layard having already, through Mr. Elliot, contradicted it in the "Levant Herald," copy of which I showed to M. Tricoupi, and that if any further steps were thought necessary, Mr. Layard would probably communicate with M. Condouriotti.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 200.

Extract from the "Stoa" of September $\frac{14}{26}$, 1877.

[Translation published in the "Phare du Bosphore," and forwarded in Mr. Layard's No. 1185 of the 9th October to the Earl of Derby.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 200.

Extract from the "Stoa" of September $\frac{19}{28}$, 1877.

(Translation.)

WITH reference to the diplomatic incident between the English Ambassador at Constantinople and the Greek Minister, published by us in our paper of the day before yesterday ("Stoa," No. 257, of $\frac{14}{26}$ September), we omitted to remark that Mr. Layard's letter of retractation was neither identical nor word for word, but merely its precise sense. We make this observation as the address and signature were wrongly inserted, and we wish to be exact.

No. 201.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 264.)
Athens, October 13, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to a despatch No. 1193 of the 10th instant, addressed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to your Lordship, and copy of which his Excellency has forwarded to me, respecting the seizure of some arms and ammunition on board a Greek vessel by the Turkish authorities at Prevesa, that M. Tricoupi told me yesterday, in reply to my inquiry, that the question was settled.

His Excellency said that the arms belonged to the Government, and that the troops on the frontier having lately received a new weapon, the ship in question was engaged in transporting some of the rifles with which they had been till lately armed to Missolonghi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 202.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 447.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 20, 1877, 9·40 A.M.

GRAND VIZIER informed me last night that Governor of Erzeroum telegraphed Moukhtar Pasha had retired to Khizan-Dere, a strong position in front of Soghanli; also that Hadji Raschid Pasha, who was said to be taken prisoner, had saved a few battalions, and was in a good position at Djin Yaghan, in the Aladja Dagh, twelve hours from Khizan-Dere. This morning Grand Vizier informs me Osman Pasha telegraphs Russians attacked right wing yesterday evening, and were defeated with loss. Consul Zohrab telegraphs has not heard from Kemball, wires being cut between Kars and Erzeroum.

No. 203.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Stanley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 65 of the 9th instant, I authorize your spending 20*l.* in clothing for the eight Turkish merchant seamen detained at Kherson.

No. 204.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

Foreign Office, October 20, 1877.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

ON the 10th instant you did me the honour to communicate to me a copy of a despatch from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, addressed to yourself under date of $\frac{13th}{25th}$ September, in which His Excellency calls attention to the correspondence which has recently passed between Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and the Greek Minister at that place, on the subject of a statement made to Mr. Layard, and reported by him in June last, to the effect that Greek criminals had been released from prison by the Greek Consular authorities in Constantinople, and sent to Athens to serve against Turkey, and ends by requesting that publicity may be given to the correspondence; and, in reply, I have the honour to inform you that I have already received copies of these letters from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and that I will take care that they are included in the next selection of papers to be laid before Parliament.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 205.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 448.) *Therapia, October* 20, 1877, 6 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

THE moment the Sultan heard through me of Ibrahim Pasha's language to Mr. Calvert, referred to in my telegram No. 440, he ordered his instant dismissal, and he has accordingly left Philippopoli.

No. 206.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 1197.) *Therapia, October* 11, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert referring to a robbery committed by a Bashi-Bazouk upon Dr. Weller, an English surgeon attached to one of the Stafford House ambulances. The facts of the case were very much exaggerated in telegrams sent to the English press. It would appear from what I have heard on good authority, that Dr. Weller had left the ambulance, and was at some distance from it shooting. He was met by two Bashi-Bazouks, one of whom demanded money of him, and he gave up a small sum, about 3*l.* I believe. The other Bashi-Bazouk protested against the conduct of his companion, and denounced him to the authorities. This slight affair was magnified into an attack upon the ambulance, and an outrage upon an English surgeon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 206.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopoli, September 30, 1877.

Sir,

WITH regard to the robbery on Dr. Weller, of the Stafford House ambulance, I have the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a communication made by me to Ibrahim Pasha, the military commandant here. His Excellency has not yet replied to it, either verbally or in writing. On my asking him this morning whether he had received it, he replied in the affirmative, and said vaguely that the matter would be looked into.

Dr. Weller has now left for Constantinople, and the only means of convicting the guilty person will be by the evidence of a fellow Bashi-Bazouk, who tried to dissuade him from committing the robbery, and afterwards came and gave information to the police, by means of which the robber was discovered and arrested.

As Ibrahim Pasha does not appear to be disposed to follow up the matter very vigorously, and is apparently indifferent to my representations, I humbly beg to suggest that stringent orders should be sent to him from Constantinople for a speedy and severe example to be made of the culprit.

The outrage in question was by no means so serious as it was at first stated to be. Dr. Weller was attacked not on the high road while journeying with the ambulance, but in the fields (some miles away from the road), whither he had rather imprudently strayed. A severe punishment is, however, needed in this case to insure complete safety in future for the Red Crescent badge. Some thirty Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians were the other day publicly flogged by order of the Court-martial here; and a similar penalty would not be inappropriate in the present case. The culprit should likewise be forced to give up the money stolen by him from Dr. Weller.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 206.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Ibrahim Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 25 *Septembre*, 1877.

M. le Commandant,

RELATIVEMENT au vol commis par le nommé Hadji Hodja, dit-on, habitant du village d'Azizich, et soldat de la troupe auxiliaire, sur la personne du Dr. Weller, médecin au service de la Société du Stafford House, j'ai l'honneur de notifier à votre Excellence que M. Weller est arrivé ici, venant de Kyzanlik, hier soir.

Comme il sera, sans doute, nécessaire pour la conviction du coupable qu'il soit confronté avec la victime de ses méfaits, je crois de mon devoir de vous soumettre que le Dr. Weller, étant, depuis son dernier voyage, gravement indisposé, ne pouvant, par conséquent, sortir de chez lui, et devant être, dans deux ou trois jours, envoyé à Constantinople, il serait, peut-être, nécessaire de faire emmener le nommé Hadji Hodja au domicile du médecin sus-mentionné, afin que ce dernier puisse le reconnaître s'il est réellement l'auteur du vol en question.

Ne doutant pas que vous avez à cœur de faire un exemple sévère afin d'empêcher, à l'avenir, que les médecins des ambulances Anglaises ou autres soient molestés dans l'accomplissement de leur œuvre humanitaire, déjà assez pénible, je vous prie, Excellence, de vouloir bien agréer, &c.

(Signé) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 207.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 1198.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE brought to the notice of Server Pasha the declaration of Ibrahim Pasha, the Military Governor of Philippopoli, to Vice-Consul Calvert, referred to in my despatch No. 1183 of the 9th instant, that "the Sultan was filled with a deep hatred of the Bulgarians, and had given him orders to use unsparing punishment." His Excellency at once authorized me to give the most explicit and categorical denial to the statement made by Ibrahim Pasha, which, his Excellency said, was at complete variance with the sentiments of His Majesty, who, on a recent occasion, when Djemil Pasha, the President of the Court-martial at Adrianople, justified the severity exercised towards the Bulgarians by alleging that it was in consequence of His Majesty's orders, immediately made known that he had given no such orders, but had, on the contrary, expressed his earnest wish that the Bulgarians should be treated with all the leniency compatible with justice.

I suggested to Server Pasha that it would be well to call at once upon Ibrahim Pasha to explain the words that he had used to Mr. Calvert. His Excellency promised me that he would do so, and would inform me of the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 208.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 1199. Confidential.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I ASKED Server Pasha yesterday, when his Excellency was calling upon me, whether the Porte was now better satisfied with the conduct of the Greek Government in its relations with Turkey. His Excellency answered that such was the case, as M. Tricoupi had of late shown a desire to prevent the armed bands which were collecting on the frontier from crossing into Turkish territory, and had, apparently, taken measures to arrest and punish those who were connected with them.

As regards the question of the Greek Consul at Canea in Crete, M. Coundouriotis, his Excellency said, had proposed that this functionary should be removed to Smyrna, but that previous to his departure for his new post the Governor of the island should pay him an official visit, in fulfilment of the promise made by Safvet Pasha to me (see my despatch No. 806 of the 19th July). His Excellency observed that he was willing to accept the arrangement as far as the transfer of the Consul to Smyrna was concerned, but he did not

see how, after this functionary's recent conduct, the Vali could be expected to call upon him. I strongly urged his Excellency not to allow any question of susceptibility or etiquette to stand in the way of the settlement of a question which might lead to fresh difficulties with the Hellenic Government. His Excellency seemed disposed to take my advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 209.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 1200.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 12, 1877.*

M. CHRISTICH called upon me yesterday to say that a report had reached Belgrade that the Porte was about to send a Commissioner there with a letter to the Prince, calling upon His Highness to give explanations as to his conduct towards his Suzerain. M. Christich begged me to prevail upon the Turkish Government not to carry out its intention, as the presence in Servia of such a mission at this time would produce a most unfavourable impression upon public opinion, and might lead to a war which all the true friends of the Principality were most anxious to prevent.

Shortly after M. Christich had left me I saw Server Pasha, and told his Excellency what the Servian Agent had said to me. His Excellency assured me that there was no intention whatever on the part of the Porte of sending a Commissioner to Servia. It was true that a telegram (the one, no doubt, of which I was able to transmit the draft to your Lordship in my No. 1176 of the 8th instant), addressed by the Grand Vizier to Prince Milan, and asking for explanations as to his conduct, had been prepared, but it had not yet gone, and it would probably be kept back for a day or two, until something more was known of the proceedings of His Highness. He begged me not to mention this to M. Christich, although I might assure him that there was no foundation for the report about the Commissioner.

His Excellency strongly condemned the conduct of Prince Milan, which, he said, furnished every day fresh proof that he had completely thrown himself into the arms of Russia, and was in a state of open war with his Suzerain. The last instance was the official reception of the Russian Consul-General and Russian Military Attaché. As to the presence of a Commissioner at Belgrade having a very unfavourable effect on public opinion in Servia, his Excellency thought that such would probably be the case, but that this unfavourable opinion would be directed not against the Porte but against the Prince, who, through his conduct, had made himself very unpopular in the Principality, and would very probably be driven from it if he continued in the course upon which he had entered.

I have conveyed to M. Christich Server Pasha's assurances that the Porte did not intend to send a Commissioner to Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 210.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 160. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October 3, 1877.*

DURING the last few weeks it has been constantly announced that the decree of mobilization of the Servian Militia was on the eve of being signed, and various dates have been stated by generally well informed persons as selected for this important determination.

Hitherto, however, there is no reliable proof of its having been signed.

Two days ago it became known that all the officers and some doctors had been ordered to join their respective detachments; and hence it was supposed that the mobilization may have been ordered secretly by the Prince without a regular decree having been signed.

To-day I was able to ascertain that this mobilization of the Militia was only a partial

one extending to two battalions in every one of the ten frontier districts, amounting in all to about 20,000 men.

Some of the friends of this Government pretend that the only purport of this partial measure is a sop to the pressing demands of the Russian head-quarters, and that this is intended to gain time and obtain more money, so as to enable M. Ristich to prolong this state of indecision till the spring of 1878, and secure better terms from the Czar.

Other persons suggest that is only a prelude to a general mobilization, and to the commencement of hostilities, and other symptoms confirm such a suspicion.

In either case the conclusion must be drawn that the Prince and his Foreign Minister are playing a most dangerous game, the result of which may bring on war, whether they are trying to delude their Imperial ally by false expectations or to deceive their Suzerain by deceitful assurances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 211.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 161. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Ristich having called on me on Sunday last, I had again an opportunity of speaking to him on the danger to which the policy followed by his Government was exposing, not only his country, but eventually himself and the Prince, in case the Porte should choose to forestall any existing intention of an aggression on the part of Servia, by adopting preventive measures, as she would certainly be entitled to do.

In the course of the conversation allusion was made to the aspirations of Servia, and I took occasion to point out to M. Ristich how the enlargement of the area of the present war might prove fatal to these in many ways.

This gentleman and his adherents have always professed their desire to consult the popular voice, and I could not help noticing to the Minister that the press was not free at the present moment in Servia, and that, though his administration had submitted the question of peace to a vote of an extraordinary National Assembly in February last, they eschewed consulting the nation when endangering the preservation of that very peace.

Indeed M. Ristich did not deny that war would be unpopular, and he did not even attempt to controvert my statements, with the exception that he would not admit his having committed himself to a renewal of hostilities.

He spoke in warm terms of his appreciation of the services I had rendered in February last, under instructions from your Lordship to bring about a termination of the war with Turkey.

Indeed no one knows better than M. Ristich how for many months I had sought to prepare the ground for such a reconciliation, how I had made use even of my stay at Constantinople for that object, and with what difficulties I had to contend in mediating between him and Pertew Effendi.

The result was then considered highly satisfactory to every one by Prince Milan, as well as by the Sublime Porte and persons who had opportunities of judging of the difficulties that had to be surrounded, congratulated me some time afterwards on having been instrumental in conducting the negotiation, among many of that momentous period, which was the only one brought to a successful termination.

All this justified my speaking once more to M. Ristich in a strain to which he has not been accustomed, and I hope with some effect on his mind, though I fear the impression may not be sufficient to resist the contrary powerful influences which are brought to bear upon him by my new Russian colleague, M. Persiani.

If the inhabitants of this Principality have been preserved from the miseries of a devastating war during 1877, and if this blessing is continued to them during the approaching winter, and if Servia is not yet the battlefield of contending Ottoman and Muscovite forces, it is all due to the timely conclusion of peace in February last; a few weeks later it would have been impossible to make an arrangement. It was, I considered,

necessary to point out this once more to M. Ristich, and I trust that in doing so I shall meet with your Lordship's approbation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 212.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 164. Political. Secret.)
Belgrade, October 15, 1877.

My Lord,

IT is, unfortunately, most difficult to ascertain with any degree of precision what point the negotiations carried on between Russia and Servia have reached.

The most contradictory assertions are made on the subject by generally well-informed persons.

From the moment that the Cabinet of Vienna gave indications that Prince Milan might act as he pleased, and would have to take the consequences, it has been expected that Servia would go to war if she could only secure subsidies, and good terms from Russia.

Prince Tsereteleff having been sent here with an instalment of these subsidies, M. Ristich pointed out to him what his Government asked the Czar to do for them, and continued to give assurances of his willingness to co-operate.

Strange to say Prince Tsereteleff, on returning to Gorni-Studen, gave a most unfavourable report to the Emperor Alexander concerning M. Ristich, suggesting his removal from the Ministry in Servia, and the advent of the Conservative party to power.

Prince Milan having been informed of this, begged of the Emperor to instruct his Agents in future to abstain from intriguing against His Highness' Ministers, whoever these might be, and declared himself disposed to co-operate unconditionally with His Majesty's forces.

M. Persiani, having arrived here, however, regular negotiations have been opened, but as yet nothing positive has transpired as to the result.

The season is becoming so advanced that it is not likely that, however desirous Prince Milan may still be to serve Russian interests, he will have much longer an opportunity to do so in 1877.

M. Persiani denies to his friends that he is pressing the Prince to commence hostilities, but he admits that Russia will not be able to do anything for Servia at the peace unless the latter has done something for the common cause in the meantime, a mode of addressing himself to the instinctive desire of aggrandisement existing amongst Belgrade politicians.

To myself and my French and Italian colleagues (the others showing no interest in the subject), M. Ristich continues saying that, though troops have been sent to the frontier, no hostile movement is meant for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 213.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 22.)

(No. 116. Confidential.)
Buda-Pesth, October 8, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 111 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that when, yesterday, in conversation on the Transylvanian Szekler raid, Baron Wenkheim remarked that Mr. Butler Johnstone was said to have found some of the funds for it, and that there was no apparent reason for that gentleman associating, as he had done last summer, with M. Helfy and Baron Ludwig Simony, who were now also mentioned in connection with it, I asked his Excellency whether the Government had any proofs of the improbable allegations against my countryman, and that he at once answered that there were no such proofs.

As the Russian Acting Consul-General here is so positive about the funds having come from Mr. Butler Johnstone and from the "Curie Romaine," I am glad to put this observation of Baron Wenkheim on record.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 214.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 22.)

(No. 119.)
Buda-Pesth, October 16, 1877.

Sir,

IN reply to an interpellation as to why arms for Russia were allowed to be smuggled over the Transylvanian frontier, whereas arms intended to help Turkey had recently been confiscated, M. Tisza to-day said that no Power received arms through Transylvania, and that he would punish any smuggling that could be shown to have occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 215.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 793. Confidential.)
Vienna, October 14, 1877.

My Lord,

IT is denied by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs here that the "Fremden Blatt" has any claim to be considered a semi-official journal, but it is on friendly terms with the Government, and occasionally receives articles for publication from the Ministry.

I think it right, therefore, to inform your Lordship that the number of this paper which appeared to-day contains an article in which it is stated, with reference to reports of an intended mediation between Russia and Turkey, "We stand to-day in exactly the same position as we did some months ago, and as any attempt to promote peace then would have been vain and purposeless, it would also be so now."

The article also concludes thus: "It would be entirely inconsistent with the policy of Austria to abandon a position of reserve without being asked to do so, in order to play the part of a mediator upon the theatre of action. No; until it is necessary to intervene for the protection of the vital interests of Austria, all interference must remain far from us."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 216.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 90. Political.)
Galatz, October 15, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 89, Political, of the 5th instant, alluding to the calling up of the reserves of the Roumanian army, I have the honour to report that these men are now being sent on to Bucharest in small parties of from thirty to forty.

The subscription for the purchase of arms does not appear to make rapid progress at Galatz; at Ibraila Mr. Vice-Consul Brown writes that it was said to have reached about 50,000 fr., 30,000 fr. being subscribed by officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 217.

Mr. Macdonell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 384. Confidential.)
Berlin, October 20, 1877.

My Lord,

THE serious defeat suffered by Mukhtar Pasha in Asia has again turned the scale of military criticism in Germany in favour of Russia. The fall of Plevna is now looked upon as being as certain as the occupation of Kars, and indeed of the whole of Armenia.

If I am correctly informed congratulatory telegrams have been addressed by the

Emperor William to the Emperor of Russia, and the hope has been expressed that Russian Commanders on the Danube may avail themselves of the moral effect of this victory to act with more vigour.

Should the attack on Plevna prove successful, it is probable that the Russian party at this Court will be favourable to the continuation of the war; but the general feeling is undoubtedly in favour of the opportunity being seized to bring about a cessation of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 218.

Izzet Bey's Report of his Mission from Mehemet Ali Pasha to the Grand Duke Nicholas.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 22.)

SON Excellence Méhémed Ali Pacha, Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Impériale du Danube, après avoir eu sous les yeux les preuves palpables des atrocités commises par les Cosaques et les Bulgares, et ayant appris de la bouche même de plusieurs paysans échappés des villages envahis par les troupes Russes, les procédés barbares que subissent nos populations, me chargea jusqu'au Grand Duc Nicolas Nicolaïevitch, Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Russe, pour lui remettre une lettre renfermant l'ordre du jour à l'armée Impériale concernant les principaux Articles de la Convention de Genève, et de lui parler en même temps des actes sauvages auxquels se livrent les Cosaques et les Bulgares.

J'arrivai au quartier-général Russe dans la nuit du Jeudi, 30 Août, 1877, et je fus reçu le Vendredi matin par le Grand Duc Nicolas, qui, après m'avoir adressé quelques paroles de courtoisie, me demanda le but de ma visite à son quartier-général; je lui répondis dans les termes suivants:—

"Monseigneur,—Méhémmed Ali Pacha connaît très bien les sentiments humanitaires dont votre Altesse est animée, et il sait parfaitement aussi que vous ignorez et que vous n'encouragez certainement pas les procédés barbares des Cosaques et des Bulgares envers nos populations qui sont tombées entre leurs mains.

"Méhémmed Ali Pacha trouve que cette manière de faire la guerre ne répond nullement aux principes et aux lois de notre époque, et il espère que votre Altesse, après avoir pris connaissance de ces faits, qui ne peuvent que provoquer chez elle les mêmes sentiments d'horreur et d'indignation qu'il a ressentis lui-même, voudra bien, dans l'intérêt de l'humanité et de la civilisation, donner des ordres sévères afin de mettre un terme à ces actes de barbarie."

A cela le Grand Duc me répondit que les Bachi-Bozouks et les Tcherkesses ont commis et commettent les mêmes actes, et que, de son côté, il a beaucoup à se plaindre de nos troupes auxiliaires. Son Altesse continua son récit en me disant que, parmi les soldats Turcs faits prisonniers, il se trouvait un Hodja qui lui a dit que la religion Musulmane veut que tout Chrétien tombé entre nos mains soit tué.

Pour répondre à cette étrange accusation, je fis appel au témoignage de M. Nélidoff, qui était présent à l'audience, et déclarai que les Hodjas chargés de faire faire la prière aux soldats n'avaient pas généralement une instruction profonde sur la religion, et que le Hodja en question devait être particulièrement ignorant. "D'ailleurs," continuai-je, "si cet homme avait dit la vérité, il n'y aurait plus de Chrétiens aujourd'hui dans l'Empire."

Je cueillai en disant que je regrettais infiniment que M. Nélidoff, qui était resté si longtemps à Constantinople en qualité de Conseiller d'Ambassade, n'avait pas voulu dissiper les erreurs grossières du genre de celles qui avaient été rapportées à son Altesse.

Après avoir réfléchi quelques instants, le Grand Duc me dit: "Je sais parfaitement que les Bulgares sont des barbares, et qu'avant l'arrivée de nos troupes dans les villages ils ont commis des atrocités, mais jamais en présence de nos troupes."

A ceci j'ai répondu que les Bulgares n'ont ni lances ni sabres, et que les hôpitaux de Choumla et de Rasgrad renferment un grand nombre d'enfants, femmes, et vieillards blessés par ces armes.

Le Grand Duc réfléchit encore quelques instants, et me dit: "Les blessés dont vous parlez doivent être parmi ceux qui ont pu se sauver après l'affaire que je vais vous raconter. L'Empereur à son arrivée à Biéla voulut faire une excursion dans les environs de cette ville. En arrivant près d'une forêt qui se trouvait à quatre kilomètres de là, on lui fit observer que cette forêt était encore habitée par de nombreuses familles Turques, et qu'il ne serait peut-être pas prudent de s'en approcher. Alors l'Empereur donna l'ordre de faire cerner la forêt par les troupes dans la pensée que, voyant ceci, ces familles se rendraient.

Au contraire, les réfugiés, au lieu de se rendre, placèrent les enfants, les femmes, et les vieillards devant eux, et ceux qui avaient des armes commencèrent à tirer sur nos troupes, et c'est alors que l'Empereur ayant ordonné de sonner le feu, presque tous ceux qui se trouvaient là furent tués ou blessés."

"Donc, dites à Méhémmed Ali Pacha, que je n'encourage certainement pas les atrocités, mais qu'il m'est impossible de courir derrière tous les Bulgares pour les surveiller, et je le prie également de maîtriser les Tcherkesses et les Bachi-Bozouks."

(Signé) IZZET,
Chef d'Escadron, attaché à l'Etat Major du Commandant-en-chef de l'Armée Impériale du Danube.

No. 219.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, October 21, 1877.*

COUNT ANDRASSY having telegraphed that he will leave Pesth to-morrow for a few days, I shall not go there to-day, but I have left your despatch No. 334 of the 17th instant, on the subject of the Sulina channel, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in order that a copy may be sent to him, which he will receive before his departure for the country to-morrow. Minister for Foreign Affairs (?) had only recommended that answers to your Lordship's questions should be telegraphed to Count Beust, but, at my request, he will now ask for authority to address a note at once (to the) Russian Ambassador, inviting Russian Government to withdraw their amendments of your Lordship's proposal, and to agree to the neutralization of the channel in the manner suggested by Her Majesty's Government.

The Austrian engineers attach great importance to immediate action, as the works may be carried on without inconvenience from now till December, and whatever is done before the winter will, in their opinion, prevent much injury to the channel, and greatly facilitate entire removal of the damage.

No. 220.

Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Gorny Studen, October 21, 1877.*

ROUMANIANS captured the redoubt they have been approaching at [?] P.M. yesterday, but the work was recaptured by the Turks the same evening.

No. 221.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 449.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 21, 1877.*

KEMBALL arrived at Erzeroum yesterday evening with his aide-de-camp all right. He telegraphs as follows:—

"We quitted Kars Wednesday morning with Mukhtar Pasha, accompanied by nine battalions and six mountain guns, following mountain roads through Bashkeui to Khunkiar Duz, where we arrived next day; cold, bad weather. *En route* were joined by last remaining battalions from Penuek, with four mountain guns. Russian force marched Tuesday night, and encamped at Bigh Ahmed, but we passed unobserved and unmolested. Cavalry covering flanks in plain obliged to return to Kars. Future still uncertain. No intelligence of right wing, which was immediately ordered to retire. Everything depends upon safe retreat. At Kars have remained 31 broken battalions, or about 10,000 men; here there are two battalions only. Small detachment has been posted at Kuprikoui as rallying point. About a third of the force intercepted on Alaja Dagh, believed to have effected escape with small arms. About 8,000 men and 40 guns captured by Russians. Ten battalions have been called from Batoum. Situation hopeless if Russians should capture Kars and advance."

No. 222.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, October 22, 1877, 12·10 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

ON the 20th instant Roumanians before Plevna attacked the redoubt up to which the sap had been pushed to within forty paces. It is reported that they were repulsed three times, with very heavy loss. Roumanian Government is supposed to be withholding the exact number of casualties.

No. 223.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

Tiflis, October 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL ZELENOY, formerly Attaché to General Ignatieff, went from this, on the 18th instant, on a secret mission to Tehran.

No. 224.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 22.)

St. Petersburgh, October 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE telegraphs, dated Gorny Studen, October 20 :—

"Yesterday Roumanians took a redoubt before Plevna, which on same evening was retaken by Turks. Russians captured 100 waggons of provisions on road from Tehernavoda to Silistria."

No. 225.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 22, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction from your telegram No. 448 that Ibrahim Pasha has been dismissed, and has left Philippopolis.

No. 226.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 22, 1877.

(No. 622.)

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram No. 448 of the 20th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with satisfaction of Ibrahim Pasha's dismissal, owing to your representations, and of his departure from Philippopolis.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 227.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 23.)

Bosna-Serai, October 11, 1877.

(No. 94. Political.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have just just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, reporting that there are rumours of an intended renewal of the insurrection in Bosnia.

I am inclined myself to think that Mr. Cooper rather exaggerates the probabilities of

any serious spread of the insurrection this year, and he certainly underrates the strength of the Mussulman population, when he states that, "if the insurrection were properly organized and ably led, Bosnia ought at the present time to be able to throw off the Turkish yoke." The insurrection can never be said to have been a popular movement in Bosnia; and, however great the discontent of the Christians, they have not generally shown a disposition to attempt any change or amelioration of their position by force of arms. No stronger proof of this is needed than the failure of the Servians last year, when they declared war with the Porte, to bring about the general rising in this province they had calculated on.

The revolt has only shown any tenacity in the immediate vicinity of the Dalmatian and Croatian frontiers; and if the insurgents last year were able to effect so little, and not capable even of maintaining a footing in the interior of the province at a much more favourable season, while the country still afforded ample means of sustenance to a large force, when the number of regular troops to oppose them was not greater than at present, and when the Mussulmans had not yet been aroused to a sense of their strength, I think it hardly probable that now, at the approach of winter, and in a ruined and devastated district, they are likely to attempt any extended movement.

The insurgent leader Despotovich stated to me himself, last May, when I had an interview with him at Tishkovatz, that his chief difficulties were to procure a sufficiency of arms, and to provision any considerable body of men at one place, and I do not see how, in these respects, matters can have changed. The frontier is undoubtedly watched by Austria with greater vigilance than formerly, the necessary funds for the purchase of arms must be as difficult to obtain as then, the land has yielded no produce, and the means of transporting provisions for an advancing force have certainly not increased. The insurrection may linger on indefinitely in its present form of brigandage, but it is only under vastly more favourable circumstances than existing ones that it can reassume important dimensions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Banjaluka, Bosnia, October 5, 1877.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 27th September I contradicted the statement that the leaders of the insurrection were in any numbers making terms with the Turkish authorities, and now I regret to report there are rumours of an intended renewal of the insurrection in Bosnia.

The successes of the Montenegrins has created a great impression in this town. The Turks are very much depressed and the Christians excited by the events in the Herzegovina. The Slav journals, I am told, are busy across the frontier in stirring up the national feeling against the Turk, and even go so far as to publish the names of leaders who are to direct the insurrectionary movement in Bosnia. At the present time there is a lull in the news from the seat of war in Bulgaria, and men whose minds had been excited by the terrible events of the last summer turn eagerly to anything that will stop their craving for excitement, and the consequence is that the wildest rumours are afloat as to Montenegrin successes and insurrectionary plans.

I am afraid the rumours have some foundation, and that the plans have taken some definite shape, as the Mutessarif informed me yesterday that on the body of an insurgent robber lately killed not far from Kobas were found papers which showed that the bearer was to have been commander of the 1st battalion of insurgents. The Mutessarif has reason to think that the organizers and leaders will come from abroad, and has accordingly sent orders for increased watchfulness in guarding the east frontier. Unless the Bosnians are excited by agents from abroad, I am happy to state the Mutessarif does not anticipate that the insurrection will become anything more than it is at present.

In a former despatch I pointed out how inexpedient it would be to withdraw any regular troops from this district. Unluckily my forebodings look likely to be realized, as these rumours of renewed insurrection are coincident with the departure of a regular battalion from Banjaluka for Bosna-Serai.

The Turkish measures for the suppression of brigandage have been useless. As far as I can ascertain the regular troops remaining in the sandjak consist of 3 battalions infantry, 1 battery field artillery, and detachments of cavalry and zaptiehs. This force is

totally inadequate to guard the frontier and restore internal order. Recourse will probably be had to the Bashi-Bazouks should the insurrection be renewed, but they would only add to the present disorder.

If the insurrection were properly organized and ably led, Bosnia ought at the present time to be able to throw off the Turkish yoke. The attention of the Bosna-Serai Government is directed to the Montenegrins, and the continued calls for soldiers during the last two years have considerably weakened the strength of the Mahometan population. There seems, however, little chance of the insurgent leaders ever organizing a successful insurrection, owing partly to want of capacity, and partly to a strong patriotic spirit which is opposed to foreign interference, but chiefly to the internal jealousies of the Christians. Should the insurrection be renewed it will probably flare up fiercely for a time, and then linger on, in the same way that the outbreak of 1875 is perpetuated by the robbers who now infest the Krajna and Popavitza.

However, under any circumstances, unless Turkey can quickly dispose of the Montenegrins, her rule in this province promises to be more than usually disturbed this winter, and it is extremely to be regretted that some neutral Power cannot step in and restore order.

The insurrection in Bosnia is planned abroad, and it is from the Austrian frontier that all warlike supplies come. The Turkish posts, in the opinion of an Austrian staff officer who has lately visited them, are totally inadequate to guard the frontier. To a great extent Turkey relies on the Austrian officials for the maintenance of the neutrality of her frontier; but in the mountainous country which extends from Trebinje to the Save, that is not an easy work, nor is the duty much lighter when the Save forms the boundary. The population on both sides of that river are of the same nationality, the Save is at every point passable in any kind of craft, and the frequent bends and wooded shores on the Turkish side between Berbir (Alt Gradiska) and Brood especially, offer every facility for unobserved crossings.

I have before reported how unsettled affairs were in this district. Turkey has been unable to give satisfaction in times of peace, and now she seems unable even to maintain order. That hitherto she has made head against the insurgents is due more to her opponent's blunders and fear of Turkish regular soldiers than from any ability displayed by the Turkish Government.

In a former despatch of the 10th September, I expressed a belief that atrocities similar to those in Bulgaria would not occur in Bosnia. That belief has, I am sorry to state, been rudely shaken by facts which have since come to my knowledge. Should Bosnia ever enjoy the benefit of good government, I believe the jealousies between the members of the various creeds might be easily controlled; but, in the struggle to gain that good government, unless some firm hand steps in to direct affairs, I greatly fear that the ill-feeling at present existing between the various parties would bear terrible evidence that the lessons learnt under 300 years of Turkish rule had not been forgotten.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 228.

Mr. Löwy to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 23.)

Anglo-Jewish Association, Secretary's Office, 160, *Portsdown Road, London, October* 23, 1877.

My Lord,

REFERRING to the copies of despatches which your Lordship was pleased to send to Baron H. de Worms on August 22 and September 17, respecting the atrocities committed in Kyzanlik, Eski-Zaghra, and other places, I am directed by the Council of the Anglo-Jewish Association to submit to the perusal of your Lordship the accompanying cutting from the "Jewish Chronicle" of the 5th October, which has reprinted from the "Standard" a detailed account of unprecedented atrocities said to have been perpetrated in Kyzanlik.

The Anglo-Jewish Association has been requested by the Committee of the Jewish Alliance in Vienna to assist in sending back to Turkey the Kyzanlik refugees from their present quarters in Bucharest. Whilst willing to afford that assistance, the Council venture to solicit your Lordship to institute inquiries into the allegations made in the accompanying printed statement.

By obtaining the exact data of the said occurrences, the Council may be enabled to devise some further measures for the benefit of the unfortunate sufferers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. LÖWY, *Secretary.*

Inclosure in No. 228.

Extract from the "Jewish Chronicle" of October 5, 1877.

HORRIBLE ATROCITIES UPON THE JEWS OF BULGARIA.

[From a Special Correspondent of the "Standard."]

Bucharest, September 23, 1877.

SO much has been written and telegraphed on the subject of Turkish and Russian outrages, that the ghastly subject has been worn pretty well threadbare. I should not, therefore, recur to the matter if it were not that I have just visited some of the unhappy victims of these fearful atrocities, and their story throws very considerable light on the share of blame which undoubtedly attaches to the Russians in regard to this most pitiful episode in the war. I am not referring now to how far Russia is primarily responsible, both for the original Bulgarian atrocities and those which have occurred since the outbreak of hostilities, for it is now clear enough that the mutual slaughter, in cold blood, by Turks and Bulgars, would have been spared, but for the aggressive war which the Czar and his advisers saw fit to inaugurate. No one by this time, I should think, suspects the Russian regular troops of any participation in these outrages. I fear, however, overwhelming evidence will be forthcoming to prove that some of the most ruffianly of the Cossacks have disgraced themselves by murders, outrages, and robberies of the worst kind, and that the Bulgar friends and auxiliaries of the invading army have systematically exterminated the Mussulman population and Jews, without any attempt on the part of the Russians to stay their hands. If the Russians are innocent of sins of commission in this respect, they are most distinctly guilty of sins of omission in failing to afford the protection that their proclamations vaunted to all peaceful inhabitants of the districts they invaded. It was not until yesterday I was aware that for the last nine or ten days there have been in Bucharest some 350 Jewish refugees, mostly widows and orphans, a miserable remnant of the unhappy Hebrew communities of Kyzanlik, Eski-Zaghra, and other places in Roumelia and Bulgaria, where the Russians have been carrying out their Christian mission. The unfortunate people are the guests of their coreligionists of this city, who, though neither numerous nor very wealthy, are nobly vindicating the cosmopolitan Jewish reputation for charity to the poor and suffering of their creed. These unfortunates were received naked and starving—many died on the road from absolute inanition—at the Roumanian frontier, where they were fed, and transported from Zimnitza to the capital. Here they were clothed and have been sheltered, many in the houses of private Jewish citizens. I spoke to one gentleman who had ten of them under his own roof, while others are crowded in apartments attached to the synagogue, and fill to overflowing a school belonging to the community in the Jewish quarter. Many of the women and children bear the scars of recently healed wounds, and all retain unmistakeable indications of the bitter sufferings and hardships to which they have been subjected.

Their sad story, too well attested, unfortunately, to admit of any doubt, is as follows:—Before the Russian column under General Ghourko crossed the Balkans, the Jewish inhabitants of Eski-Zagra and Kyzanlik numbered over 1,600. Three days before the Russians entered Kyzanlik, the Kaimakam, or Sub-Governor of the province, came to those places, and convoking the Jewish citizens, told them that invasion was imminent, and advised them that as they might anticipate ill-treatment from the Bulgars and Russians, from which he was powerless to protect them, they had better leave for a place of safety. Acting on this suggestion, they followed the Turkish inhabitants, who sought shelter in a forest on the Balkans. In Kyzanlik only two or three poor families remained. The narrator of what follows was one of the natives of Kyzanlik, but there is no doubt what occurred there applies, with very little variation, to every other town and village in which these atrocities have taken place. Three days after the Turks and Jews had left, General Ghourko's troops arrived, and there were conferences between his officials and the representative Bulgars of the place, which resulted in the two or three Jews that remained being summoned and told to follow their co-religionists, and give them the

assurance that they might return with safety and pursue their avocations in peace with no fear of being disturbed, as the Russians guaranteed them protection. On the strength of this representation the Jews set off, and after a four days' search found the encampment of their friends. A long conference ensued, with the result of Turk and Jew refugees alike coming to the conclusion that it would not be safe to entrust themselves to the tender mercies of the Russ and Bulgars. With this answer the deputation set out to return to Kyzanlik, and when some six hours' journey on the road they were met by another Jew messenger and five Bulgars, who were the bearers of the Grand Duke Nicholas's Proclamation, promising to all and sundry, of whatever creed or nationality, peace and tranquillity, under Russian protection. Reinforced by the new comers, the deputation returned to the refugee camp, where, influenced by and on the faith of the Imperial Proclamation, the inhabitants of Kyzanlik and Eski-Zaghra returned to their respective towns. For a few days after their return, the 900 Jews who belonged to Kyzanlik occupied themselves in shaking down into their old places, and comparing notes on the ravages that had been committed during their absence on the belongings which they had been unable to remove.

Then the Russians evacuated the town to go and attack the Turkish force which was approaching; and no sooner had the last soldier cleared the place than the Bulgars commenced operations by seizing every man, woman, and child of the Jewish community and forcing them into the synagogue and its courtyard, which seems to have been fenced off with iron railings. The richest men amongst them were then summoned by some of the Bulgars, and a demand was made for a large sum of money. Some demur naturally arose for the moment, so the Bulgars hastened the decision by firing volleys between the railings into the crowded courtyard, eighteen people being killed at the first discharge. All the money in the possession of the men was given up then without further parley, the bodies of the dead being searched for their contribution. Next a demand was made for the jewellery of the women and girls, and, without waiting for its delivery, the cowardly ruffians rushed in among the shrieking, terrified creatures, tearing off necklaces and bracelets, rings and ear pendants, and in many cases facilitating the operation by cutting off the ears or fingers of any miserable women who could not quickly enough disengage her rings. This occurred on a Saturday, and the next day the Bulgars devoted a small part to religious observance, and a great part to getting drunk, doing no active injury to the imprisoned Jews, but positively refusing to allow the dead bodies of those who had been murdered to be separated from the living.

On the Monday morning the synagogue was invaded by crowds of half-drunken ruffians, who seized all the young women and girls, and outraged them in the sacred building in the presence of their friends. The elder of the town, Aaron ben Kanetti, the richest of the community, saw his two daughters seized in their turn, and prayed that he might be spared the horrible sight by being killed at once. The response to his prayer was that two men who were armed with hay-forks placed a prong in each ear and threatened that if he attempted to turn away his head, they would thrust them into his brain. It is declared that the maddened father then seized one of the forks and thrust a fork into his own eyes rather than witness the shameful outrage on his offspring, and as he fell in agony at the feet of the Bulgars who had him in charge, they mercifully ended his torment by prodding him to death with the forks. After a long day's murder and outrage, the 900 were reduced to less than half, all the richest men having been killed, as also all the young women and girls who had survived the horrible outrages to which they had been for hours subjected.

Towards evening the music of an approaching detachment of Russian dragoons and Cossacks was heard, and the Bulgars then ran off, leaving the survivors for a time at rest. The commander of this detachment does not seem to have taken any other steps than to order that the survivors should be taken under Cossack escort to the town of Shipka, and he left a few of these doubtful irregulars to perform the duty, marching off himself with the rest of his force. As soon as his back was turned the Bulgars came back, and furnishing the Cossacks with drink, soon had them in a condition to co-operate fraternally in the business they contemplated. Then commenced a scene of carnage in which the survivors declare that the Cossacks, men of the Bulgar legion, took their full share. Amongst other horrors it is said that men and women were impaled on the spikes of the iron railings, and children were pinned to the doors and seats of the synagogue with lances. When the surviving victims had been reduced to seventy-two there was a fresh respite, by the arrival of another detachment of Russian dragoons, and this time the commandant left some of his own men to escort all that were left to Shipka. The unhappy wretches were formed into a chain-gang, two and two, and set off on their journey. After a five hours' march they halted, and were allowed to rest, and soon after four Cossacks and a number

of Bulgars came along from Kyzanlik, still half drunk, and parleyed for a few minutes with the dragoon escort, with the result of the regulars setting off in haste, apparently to rejoin their detachment. Directly they were out of sight the Bulgars and the four Cossacks proceeded deliberately to strip the unhappy prisoners and murder them. One had made his escape without being perceived, and before going far met another detachment of Russian dragoons. He told the commandant what was going on, and this officer proceeding at once to the spot, found only thirty-four surviving, the Cossacks and Bulgars taking flight with their booty as soon as he appeared on the scene. This time the regular escort saw them safe to Shipka, and thence they were marched under escort, but with no provision of food, to Sistova. They declare they had nothing to eat on the way except what the charitable of their own persuasion provided for them. On the road they were joined by other detachments of Jews, the survivors of massacres at other towns and villages, bringing up the number of refugees, as I have said, now here to 351. Many died on the road, and some few since their arrival here, and many have become insane from their sufferings. One pitiful instance of the latter affliction is that of a poor young widow, whose infant child died on the journey from starvation, and who sits rocking a ragged coverture in her arms, imploring silence at the least noise, in the belief that her little one is asleep in her arms.

As no doubt many British Jews will be anxious to assist in the philanthropic work which is pressing somewhat hardly on their co-religionists here, I will mention the name of Hillel and Mannach and Halfon Brothers, Jewish bankers of Bucharest, who would receive subscriptions and ensure their proper application.

No. 229.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 23.*)

(No. 450.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 23, 1877, noon.*

CAPTAIN FRASER, who has just arrived from Suleiman Pasha's army, describes the situation as altered for the worse during the last ten days. The Russians have been considerably reinforced especially in the Dobrudscha, and threaten to attack Rustchuk and Silistria. The Turks are preparing for the defence of those fortresses, which Captain Fraser thinks can be held, and have fallen back to Rasgrad and other strong positions.

No. 230.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 626.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1190 of the 9th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rodosto to Her Majesty's Consul-General and Judge at Constantinople, on the subject of Circassian outrages in his district, and I have to state to your Excellency that I approve your intention to take an early opportunity of bringing Mr. Dussi's statements to the notice of the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 231.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 627.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a *pro-Memorid* which I have received from the Italian Ambassador in this country, relative to the employment of the Lebanon Militia in the neighbourhood of Baalbeck, for the purpose of enforcing the conscription of Redifs, and I have to request that you will call upon Mr. Consul-General Eldridge to furnish a report on the matter therein referred to, and also inform me what is your Excellency's view of it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 232.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 629.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1147 of the 29th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had had on the previous day with the Secretary of the Greek Legation respecting the relations between Greece and Turkey, and I have to convey to your Excellency my approval of the language held by you to M. Kalergi on the occasion in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 233.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 630.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I approve the language held by you on the 30th ultimo to M. Coundouriotí in your conversation with him respecting the state of the relations between Greece and Turkey, as reported to me in your Excellency's despatch No. 1156 of the 1st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 234.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 631.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice which, as stated in your despatch No. 1165 of 3rd October, you have tendered to the Grand Vizier, urging upon him the importance of maintaining a good understanding with Greece, and of avoiding measures which might give the Hellenic Government an excuse for accusing the Porte of harbouring hostile designs against Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 235.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 632.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 1183 of the 9th instant, in which you forward despatches from Consul Blunt and Vice-Consul Calvert, has been received, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have learnt from them with deep regret of the sad state of things which prevails at Philippopolis and in the neighbourhood, and that they entirely approve your intention to call the Sultan's attention to the demeanour and proceedings of Ibrahim Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 236.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 633.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 1167 of the 3rd instant, forwarding copy of a report from Mr. Rassam of his proceedings, has been received; and I authorize you to convey to Mr. Rassam an approval of his conduct as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 237.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 635.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the instructions which you have addressed to Colonel Lennox, Captain Fife, and Consul Blunt, impressing upon them the expediency of testing as far as possible the accuracy of reports which may reach them of acts of cruelty committed upon the Mahommedan population in districts occupied by Russian troops, copies of which were forwarded to me in your despatch No. 1155 of the 1st instant, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 238

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 636.) *Foreign Office, October 23, 1877.*

Sir,

UNDER the circumstances mentioned in your despatch No. 1158 of the 1st instant, Her Majesty's Government approve your having called the attention of the Grand Vizier to the unfortunate position of the Bulgarian Protestants, who have always held aloof from insurrectionary intrigues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 239.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

(No. 44. Confidential.) *Tunis, October 15, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 17 of the 19th September last, giving cover to a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, conveying Server Pasha's observations regarding the answer of the Regent of Tunis to the Porte's requisition to furnish his contingent of troops, I have the honour to state that I took occasion yesterday, in an interview with His Highness, to bring the subject to his notice.

As the Regent had previously informed me of the demand of the Porte, and of his answer, I said to him that, according to the official information I had received, the Ottoman Government was far from being satisfied with the reasons he had assigned for his non-compliance with its requisition, pursuant to his obligation, since it had offered to bear the expenses of the transport of the troops, and of their maintenance while serving in Turkey.

His Highness observed that, owing to the very limited number of Nizam under arms, he was unable to send regular troops, but that he had sent money, and had also complied with the demand for animals for the use of the Turkish army, adding that the finances of the Regency were such as to prevent him from fulfilling his obligation towards the Porte, which he, however, fully admits.

The Regent, moreover, remarked that I was aware that, on the declaration of the war between Russia and Turkey, he had assembled all the notables and Ulemas of Tunis to consult them as to the extent of the succours which this country could place at the disposal of the Porte, and of their decision to send money, raised by subscription, in lieu of troops, which they did not possess.

I replied that, although it was correct that there were but few regular troops, yet it was impossible to convince the Porte that the Mussulman population of the Regency could not furnish a contingent of men, who could be disciplined at Constantinople, like other recruits from the Ottoman provinces.

As it was a matter of public comment that the majority of the Ulemas have not done, and were not doing their duty according to the precepts they were teaching, when the Caliphate was engaged in a foreign war in defence of Islam, their attention should seriously be called to it. I mentioned the sacrifices which the Khedive of Egypt was making, and as His Highness was one of the most prominent Mussulman Princes, he should not allow it to be said hereafter that he had failed, in a moment of public danger, to support his Suzerain, be it on account of indifference or under pressure from foreign Governments, which pursued an interested policy.

The Regent said that when the French Representative pressed him, in the name of his Government, to take no part in the war, and to declare his neutrality, he had given no assurance whatever either to him or to the Italian Representative as to the line of conduct he would follow, in which he would be guided by circumstances; and he asked me what he should do in case he should succeed in collecting a contingent of men, and M. Roustan and M. Pinna protested against him.

I replied that as both France and Italy had declared their neutrality, it was highly improbable that their Agents would venture to commit any act in direct violation of that neutrality. A wide distinction must be drawn between giving verbal advice and the presentation of a formal protest, which, with reference to this Regency, could not but be regarded as an interference with the relations of His Highness with his Suzerain, and, consequently, an unjustifiable infringement of the laws of neutrality; but be this as it may, there would be no difficulty to meet their protests with arguments, which they could not easily controvert without placing their Governments in contradiction with their own declared neutrality.

At any rate, His Highness would permit me to observe that, in the event the Sultan concluded an honourable peace, he ran the risk of having to give explanations with respect to his refusal to carry out his obligations towards His Majesty, and should those explanations prove unsatisfactory, his position would not only become irksome towards the Porte, but the interests of his family might be seriously compromised. He would be placed in the alternative of having either to accept more stringent conditions with regard to his future position, or to have recourse to some foreign Power to screen him from the displeasure of his Suzerain. The matter was one of grave consideration, and I felt confident, from the conversations I have had with His Highness since the commencement of the war, and his own declaration that, had he had the means he would have taken a personal part in it, that he would employ his most strenuous efforts to evince his zeal, under circumstances of extreme peril, to his nation.

The conversation was carried on for nearly an hour in a friendly spirit, in the presence of his Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Although the Bey appeared perplexed, and occasionally alluded to the present state of the Regency, as well as to the representations of my French and Italian colleagues, yet he made no attempt to refute my observations, and he finally stated to me that he and his Ministers would bestow their utmost attention on a matter which was entitled to their most serious consideration.

I am able to state, in conclusion, that Aly Bey, the heir presumptive to the Regency, General Rustem, who was recently at Constantinople, some of the superior functionaries, and a few of the most prominent Ulemas, are in favour of sending a contingent of men, and they do not apprehend any serious resistance on the part of the population.

In taking leave of His Highness he said he hoped that Her Majesty's Government would support him, I presume, in allusion to any pressure which my French and Italian colleagues may bring to bear upon him.

I will do myself the honour to inform your Lordship of the decision of the Tunisian Government so soon as I become acquainted with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 240.

Mr. Löwy to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 24.)

Anglo-Jewish Association, Secretary's Office, 160, Portsdown Road, London, October 24, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the letter which I had the honour to address to your Lordship yesterday, the 23rd instant, I invoked your kind attention to the case of the survivors of the massacres at Kyzanlik and other towns who are now in Bucharest. As it would be of great service to the refugees if, by way of telegrams, inquiries were made with regard to their present condition, and to the plans which have been proposed for sending them back to Turkey, I beg leave to state to your Lordship the following facts, which have been communicated by the Jewish Alliance in Vienna, and have been accompanied by the copy of a document dated September 27, and signed by Dr. M. Beck, the principal Minister of the Jewish community in Bucharest.

The details are these:—

Three hundred and thirty-seven Jewish refugees arrived in the early part of September in Bucharest, naked and destitute. It had been intended to retain them there until the termination of the war; but there was a want of means for housing and maintaining the refugees. Besides this, the refugees are most anxious to return; for they consist of men, women, and children, who had been dragged away from their respective families, and who, speaking a language unknown in Roumania, cannot make themselves understood to the inhabitants.

In this emergency the Bucharest Relief Committee applied, through Dr. Beck, to the Alliance in Vienna for means to remove the fugitives to Kyzanlik, &c. The Alliance in Vienna, being willing to comply with this application, is collecting 1,000*l.* (towards which the Anglo-Jewish Association is contributing a very considerable amount), for it is known that the Jewish inhabitants of Bucharest are unable to provide for this number of destitute persons.

Your Lordship is now most respectfully requested to cause inquiries to be instituted in Bucharest as to the statements made by the fugitives, how they came from Kyzanlik and other localities to Bucharest; and further, whether it would be possible for them to return to their respective homes, as proposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. LÖWY, *Secretary.*

No. 240*.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 25, 1877.*

"HELICON" left on Monday. Admiral proposes to send "Flamingo" to replace her. As "Rapid" and "Cockatrice" are soon to leave, it would be desirable to have two ships here.

No. 241.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 65. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October 13, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have written to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the subject of the imprisonment of a Christian Cretan ex-Deputy and of six Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 241.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Canea, Crete, October 13, 1877.

Sir,

IN my last despatch I had the honour to inform your Excellency that the authorities had suddenly arrested a certain Argyraki, a Deputy of Candia, in the last Cretan General

Assembly, and had transported him to the capital. M. Argyraki is a man of considerable abilities, which he has further improved by education, and his influence over his colleagues in the Assembly had always been used in favour of employing legal methods in the attainment of their ends. Four hundred of the inhabitants of Candia, comprising all the respectable Christians, have petitioned the Grand Vizier to release M. Argyraki, and the Christians of Rethymo have requested me to intercede with your Excellency on his behalf. I consider it my duty to make you acquainted with their request. It is certain that his arrest has not been without its effect in preventing the Committee of malcontents from dispersing; which a little while ago did not seem an improbable event.

The last Turkish mail-steamer brought six Bulgarians here, who are on their way to banishment in Tripoli. They are represented as being in a state of great destitution, and they have petitioned me and some of my colleagues to have compassion on their state and to afford them some succour. Although I would willingly aid them, or any other wretched creatures in their misery, it does not appear to me advisable to do so without the knowledge of the authorities, and it would scarcely be of advantage to the prisoners that their custodians should know that they have sought to attract the sympathy of foreigners.

I have, &.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 242.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 26.*)

(No. 266.) *Athens, October* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have to-day been confidentially informed that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has addressed a note of a most conciliatory character to Photiades Bey, Turkish Minister at this Court, explaining the reasons for the step recently taken through Her Majesty's Government.

I have also learned that the camp at Lamia is almost evacuated, that officers in command of troops have been told that they may permit many of the men of the reserves to return to their homes, and that the camp at Thebes will in all probability be broken up after the visit which His Majesty the King intends to pay to it.

I hear also that it is hoped that difficulties between Greece and Turkey, such as the question respecting the Gulf of Arta, the Greek Consul in Crete, and others, may be settled in an unofficial manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 243.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 26.*)

(No. 267. Secret and Confidential.) *Athens, October* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Lordship that I was confidentially informed this morning by M. Tissot, the French Minister at this Court, that a very conciliatory note with regard to Greece had been lately received from Server Pasha by Photiades Bey, Representative of the Porte at Athens.

Later in the day I saw Photiades Bey, and he informed me that Server Pasha had explained in his note that the reason the Porte had asked for assurances as to the intentions of Greece with regard to Turkey, through the medium of Her Majesty's Government, was to avoid making a direct appeal to the Hellenic Government on the subject.

Your Lordship will remember that this was the motive I assigned for the course adopted by the Ottoman Government in this matter in the conversation I had with M. Tricoupi, and which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 224, Confidential, of the 8th ultimo.

I have also the honour to state that M. Tissot referred this morning to the advice he had lately given to the Hellenic Government to follow a prudent and pacific policy, and said that he had also suggested to M. Tricoupi the advisability of withdrawing some of the Greek troops from the frontier, in order not to give umbrage to the Porte, and that he had also pointed out to him the great expense the maintenance of a large body of men under arms during the winter would entail upon the country. M. Tricoupi, however,

he said, had declared that it was impossible either to withdraw the troops or to reduce their number.

Notwithstanding these statements of M. Tricoupi, M. Tissot said that he heard upon very good authority that the camp at Lamia had been almost evacuated; that officers in command of bodies of troops had been told or had received hints that they might allow men of the reserves to go to their homes, and that the camp at Thebes was in all probability to be broken up after the visit which the King purposes to pay to it.

I have for some time been of opinion that, considering the position of the King and of His Majesty's Government, the state of public opinion in Greece, and the character of the people, any semblance to menace directly offered by the Porte might produce a result the very opposite to that wished for, and it is now evident that it is highly desirable that nothing should be done to wound the dignity and *amour-propre* of the Greeks, as the Government appears to be adopting a prudent policy, as it were, of their own accord, which they would not, and perhaps could not, carry into effect, if apparently acting under pressure. In support of this view I may mention to your Lordship that M. Tissot also informed me that an understanding had been come to between M. Tricoupi and Photiades Bey, or between the Greek and Turkish Governments, that the points in dispute between Turkey and Greece are to be treated unofficially; for instance, that the Porte might perhaps withdraw its Circular respecting the closing of the entrance of the Gulf of Arta after dark, as it were, without yielding to a demand of Greece, and that the fact would be made known through the press and so forth, with regard to other questions pending between the two countries.

I think it is fair to conclude that the observations lately addressed by the Government of Her Majesty and by that of France to the Greek Government, have contributed somewhat to the present improved relations between Greece and Turkey, but in the consideration of this question the failure till now on the part of Russia to gain any signal success in the field of battle must also be taken into account.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 244.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October 26.*)

(No. 268. Confidential.) *Athens, October* 17, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour, in my despatch No. 251 of the 5th instant, to report to your Lordship that I had inquired of the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs whether there was any truth in a statement published in a Greek newspaper to the effect that Prince Gortchakow had addressed a note to the Greek Government urging Greece to take the field against Turkey, and that M. Tricoupi had formally denied it.

I have since then heard that one of my colleagues has asked his Excellency whether any Convention for an alliance offensive and defensive existed between Greece and Russia, and that M. Tricoupi stated that no such Convention existed.

I have, however, learned from three different persons, all likely to be well informed, that an exchange of ideas has lately taken place between the Russian and Hellenic Governments.

It is quite possible that Russia, who now appears anxious for the assistance of Servia, may, considering the ill-success which has till now attended her arms, be desirous of obtaining Greece as an auxiliary sooner or later in the present war.

I will endeavour to learn more upon this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 245.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 26.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 25 Octobre*, 1877.

LES journaux de l'Europe ont publié dernièrement un télégramme de M. Cogalniceano accusant les Buchi-Bazouks d'avoir achevé les blessés Nicolas Jean et Nastasse, Capitaines dans l'armée Moldo-Valaque, et de tuer à coups de hache tous ceux qu'ils rencontrent. M. Cogalniceano ajoute que nos troupes tiraient continuellement sur les officiers

sanitaires, et qu'en exécution des ordres d'Osman Pacha elles ne feraient pas quartier aux soldats Moldo-Valaques. Veuillez donner aux assertions de M. Cogalniceano le démenti le plus formel et le plus énergique. C'est un outrage odieux à l'armée Impériale qui ne s'est jamais souillée de pareils crimes. Des imputations aussi évidemment mensongères excitent le mépris plus encore que l'indignation.

No. 246.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 25, 1877.

OFFICIAL report announces capture of a Pasha, 3,000 infantry, and convoy of provisions on road from Sofia to Plevna, Thursday, 11 P.M.

No. 247.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 25, 1877.

IT is reported, though not officially, that Prince Serge Leuchtenberg, on the staff of the Grand Duke Wladimir, was killed yesterday in an encounter with the Turks.

No. 248.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 452.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 25, 1877, 7 P.M.

PORTE informs me that Russians attacked Turks at Telish, near Orchanieh, and were repulsed with severe loss, amounting to more than 1,000 killed. Yesterday Russians again attacked Turks at a place between Rustchuk and Leilek Adassi, were equally repulsed, after losing 150 killed and 300 wounded. Another engagement more serious took place at Youvan Chiftlik, near Kadikioi, in which the Russians were repulsed, after losing 800 men in killed, six prisoners, and a great quantity of arms, chiefly consisting in rifles.

Porte further states that Moukhtar Pasha attacked the Russians in the plain of Millidoz, and near village of Karaourgan, and, after battle of eight hours' duration, Russians retreated; their losses not known.

No. 249.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 453.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 25, 1877.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from General Kemball:—

"Wednesday. Ismail Pasha expected to arrive at Zeidikan to-day, followed by Russian left. Fear that retreat may be intercepted by superior force just now reported at Chorassan. Situation therefore critical; if defeated there would be nothing to oppose Russian progress to Erzeroom. Attempt to rally broken battalions unsuccessful. Mukhtar Pasha expected at Kuprikoi to-day with say 2,500 men; about same number of stragglers assembled there, rest have gone home; 1,500 only here. Olti road quite undefended."

No. 250.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 454.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 25, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Erzeroum:—

"McCalmont and Trotter report from Gerger, October 21, Ismail Pasha retreated on night of 16th to (undecypherable). On 18th Russians advanced whole force to

attack our left and centre with artillery, but were silenced by our fire towards evening; enemy subsequently retired. Same night, after destroying 500 boxes ammunition and [undecypherable] stores, army retreated reaching Hippergedee next evening. Weather [undecypherable], roads in bad condition. Rear-guard holds defiles south-west of Mussin against strong force of enemy's cavalry. Army marched unmolested yesterday, and last night to this position of Gerger, four hours east of Khelat."

N.B.—The queries and parentheses are Mr. Layard's.

No. 251.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 455.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 26, 1877.

THE Porte will, I think, permit foreign ships detained on account of blockade in Russian ports in Black Sea and Sea of Azoff to leave, on condition that cargoes consisting of grain shall be sold at Constantinople, no duty being levied upon them. Can you furnish me at once with a list and particulars of any British ship so detained?

No. 252.

The Earl of Derby to Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

THERE are said to be 367 Jewish refugees, survivors of the massacres at Kyzanlik and other towns, now at Buchurest. They are said to be most anxious to return, and it is proposed by Jewish Relief Societies to provide means for transporting them back to Kyzanlik.

Endeavour to ascertain how they came to Bucharest from Kyzanlik and other places, nd whether they are fit objects for charitable relief of this kind.

Dr. M. Beck signed the memorial on their behalf to the Jewish Alliance Association.

No. 253.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1877, 6·35 P.M.

THERE are said to be 367 Jewish refugees, survivors of the massacres at Kyzanlik and other towns, now at Bucharest. They are said to be most anxious to return, and it is proposed by Jewish Relief Committees to provide means for transporting them back to Kyzanlik.

Endeavour to ascertain and report whether it would be possible for them to return to their homes, and if they could safely do so.

No. 254.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 649.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1877.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 1193 of the 12th instant has been received, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have learnt from it with satisfaction that Server Pasha has emphatically denied the truth of Ibrahim's Pasha's statement to Vice-Consul Calvert as to the alleged unfriendly feelings entertained by the Sultan towards the Bulgarians.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 255.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 650.)

Foreign Office, October 26, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 1199, Confidential, of the 12th instant, reporting the substance of a conversation which you had had with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the proposed transfer of the Greek Consul at Canea, in Crete; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice which you gave to Server Pasha, not to allow any question of etiquette to stand in the way of a settlement of a question which might lead to fresh difficulties between the Porte and the Hellenic Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 256.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Löwy.

Foreign Office, October 26, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letters of the 23rd and 24th instant, on the subject of the Jewish survivors from the massacres at Kyzanlik and other places, who are now in Bucharest, and whom it is proposed to assist to return to their homes, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Bucharest has been instructed by telegraph to endeavour to ascertain how they came to Bucharest, and whether they are fit objects for charitable relief of this kind.

I am to add that a telegram has also been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing him of the above facts, and requesting that he will report whether it would be possible for these refugees to return to their homes, and whether they could safely do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 257.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 52. Political.)

Foreign Office, October 26, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 161, Political, of the 3rd instant, reporting the language which at a recent interview you held to the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs as regards the attitude of the Servian Government and their relations with the Porte; and I have to convey to you my approval of the observations which you addressed to M. Ristich on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 258.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 1202.)

Therapia, October 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Barker with reference to the conduct of the Albanian irregulars of the Gueghs tribe, who have been sent by the Porte to the Greek frontiers.

I have brought Mr. Barker's statement to the serious notice of the Porte, but accounts of outrages committed upon Christians, when coming from Greek sources, are not always to be relied on. I have no doubt, however, that the wild and lawless Albanians have been guilty of excesses during their march.

It is curious that in the reports forwarded by Mr. Barker there is as yet no mention

of the attack alleged to have been made by Bashi-Bazouks on the Greek Consulate at Larissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 258.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, October 6, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a report I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, from Larissa, of the 1st instant, confirming the accounts already received here of the "requisitions" and robberies committed by the Guegha Albanians. I annex also a translation in French of the original Greek inclosure he mentions in his despatch.

And to render this report complete, I have the honour to annex the report presented to me by the first Dragoman of this Consulate, Mr. John Bizzo, on the same subject and on that of the revolvers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 258.

Vice-Consul Suter to Acting Consul Barker.

Larissa, October 1, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the , and previous reports, relative to the conduct of the irregular troops recently come to Thessaly, I am to state that, knowing from long experience the disposition here to exaggerate on all occasions, I have deemed it prudent to delay offering particulars regarding proceedings of the Guegha levies, while on their way to this place, until I could feel satisfied as to the general accuracy of the accounts given of them.

Having done so, it is quite clear that the complaints were well founded which had reached here of the excesses towards Christians of those troops on their march from Dibra through the villages of the Salonica districts; and I regret to have to transmit herewith inclosed a copy of a narrative obtained from a source upon which I place confident reliance as to truthfulness, of those committed by them upon their entry within the limits of this province. I have seen an Italian translation of the narrative, but think preferable sending it in the Greek original, and the full details it affords obviate attempting to add any on the subject.

For these acts, which have created much consternation, the authorities, although willing, seem powerless to afford redress, as the Gueghas will not be restrained. They have declared that, serving without pay, plunder is accorded to them, and a part of their agreement, and we learnt yesterday that at Ambelakia, a large Christian village of well-to-do inhabitants in the vale of Tempe, the same scenes above referred to as enacted on Mount Olympus have been repeated by the Gueghas, despatched last week hence towards Kattrina, notwithstanding some precautions taken and the many injunctions given to prevent them. An opinion prevails that the violent doings of these irregulars are encouraged and incited by fanatical Turks, with a view to provoke the Christians into acts which may be seized as pretext to accuse them of revolutionary intentions. Timid townspeople may not be led into a snare, but the bold, warlike, and armed natives of Agrapha and the border districts are not likely meekly to brook repeated aggression, and to any collision bloodshed and serious consequences may ensue.

The Zeibecks, reported as arrived last week, could not remain here in tents, owing to heavy rain, and have been transferred to the country barrack at Tirnovo, where hitherto no serious complaints have been made of them. No further contingents of these and of Gueghas and of Arnauts, said to be expected, have yet appeared.

The Italian aviso, "Messaggiere," Commander de Negri, reached Volo from Salonica last week, and the Consular Delegate of that nation at the former place came to Larissa to inquire into and seek redress for molestation or insult recently practised by Gueghas and Zeibecks towards Italians. As it was impossible to identify any of the offenders, none

could be punished, but the authorities, in writing apologies, undertook to do their best to discover the parties, and engaged to prevent recurrence, and on the whole some good effect has been produced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY SUTER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 258.

Translation of Narrative in the Greek original sent by Vice-Consul Suter.

DEUX milles Guéques environ de Dilva et de Mati, Province de la Haute Albanie, dont les deux tiers à pied et les restants à cheval, tous mal armés et mal habillés, sous la direction d'environ trente chefs en discorde, et divisés en trois corps, ont pénétré la semaine passée de la Province de Cozani en celle de Servia, en divers détachements. Le 1er corps à peine avoir franchi la Rivière Alimmona, qui forme frontière entre la Province de Cozani et celle de Servia, s'est donné de suite à saccager et piller les villages Chrétiens qui sont habités exclusivement par des Grecs, et qui sont considérés comme révolutionnaires contre l'état actuel des choses, d'après les instructions qui sont données par les commandants. Arrivés à Servia, chef-lieu d'un Caïmacam, ils n'ont voulu se loger qu'uniquement dans des maisons Chrétiennes, lesquelles sont à peine 100, et dans un état presque de misère, tandis que les autres 400 maisons qui sont habitées par des Musulmans ne furent pas molestées.

Malgré leur misère les malheureux Chrétiens de Servia ont complimenté autant que possible leurs visiteurs. Ces vandales Bashi-Bazouks furent abondamment nourris, eux et leur chevaux, afin de ne pas leur donner aucun motif de se plaindre. De cette manière ils ont demeuré six jours, c'est-à-dire, deux jours chaque corps.

Les Guéques non contents de l'abondante nourriture que leurs estomacs et leurs chevaux recevaient journellement, ont aussi voulu remplir leurs poches vides, et en conséquence, menaçant les Chrétiens, les couteaux à la main, ils ont pris tout l'argent qu'ils ont pû rançonner, après quoi ils ont saccagé les maisons de tous les objets faciles à être transportés, c'est-à-dire, tapis, habillements, chaudrons, et diverses autres choses, et sous les yeux du Caïmacam et d'une compagnie de Mustaphiz qui trouvent en permanence à Servia. Les Guéques encouragés par l'indifférence des autorités, et poussés par quelques fanatiques Musulmans, après avoir terminé le pillage, ont commis plusieurs autres scandales, et, entre autres, ils ont souillé l'Eglise de St. Nicholas, et ces maraudeurs ont volé toutes les choses sacrées destinées au culte, et ils les ont vendues publiquement.

Ils forcèrent le très Révérend Pappá Dimitri, le Vicaire de l'Evêque de Servia et Cozani, et le représentant chez le Medgliss Idari, de laver avec ses propres mains les pieds des Guéques qui se trouvaient logés chez lui, après quoi ces infâmes sont entrés dans la maison d'un pauvre Chrétien, composée d'une seule chambre et où on pleurait la mort du seul enfant de la famille.

Ces misérables voulurent enlever de force le cadavre de l'enfant ainsi que la famille, dans le but de s'installer dans la dite chambre, disant en Turc ("Miu boue tiséré"), mais ils se dispensèrent après avoir reçu 300 piastres.

Les Chrétiens auraient souffert beaucoup plus s'il n'y avait l'intervention des trois notables Musulmans qui ont donné asile dans leurs maisons aux femmes et aux enfants Chrétiens en faisant aussi transporter de meubles pour les soustraire au pillage des Guéques. Les dits Musulmans sont Réched Bey et son fils Ibrahim Bey, son gendre Mustafa Bey, et le savant Chérif Effendi, ancien secrétaire du Sieur Costaky Effendi, Zographos de Constantinople, après receveur dans une ville de l'Arabie et actuellement, pour cause de santé et pour la fortune des Chrétiens, demeurant à Servia, sa patrie.

Tandis que le tiers des Guéques se comportaient de la sorte à Servia un autre corps s'étant dirigé par la rivière à Velvados, après avoir insulté et blessé l'Honorable M. F. Z. M. Antoniadis, notable de la ville de Velvados, et depuis vingt ans membre du gouvernement local, ils lui ont enlevé 15,000 piastres en argent et effets.

De Velvados, la sus-dite bande, au lieu de suivre le chemin direct, a pris au contraire une autre route et est entrée à Catafighio, qui est un village d'environ 400 maisons Chrétiennes.

A peine arrivés ils ont commencé à piller et à saccager. Pour le malheur des habitants, dans une maison éloignée du village, d'un certain Daniel de mauvaise réputation, les Guéques ont trouvé un brigand Musulman de nom Zeczo.

Alors ils ont accusé les habitants de connivence au brigandage et avec cette excuse

ils ont insulté, maltraité, et blessé plusieurs, et après avoir enlevé soixante-douze mules appartenant aux villageois ils ont chargé leur butin, qui a été expédié dans leurs foyers.

Ils sont partis de Catafighio, se rendant de nouveau à Servia, et assurant le brigand qui, étant Musulman, a été bien reçu par ses co-religionnaires, en lui promettant de se prêter pour sa délivrance à condition qu'il dénonce une centaine de personnes parmi les plus notables des villages voisins comme receleurs des brigands. J'ignore ce que le brigand Musulman a répondu aux interrogatoires qui lui furent faits, il paraîtrait cependant qu'il n'a pas servi complètement aux vues des Musulmans de Servia, car j'apprends qu'il s'est limité à dénoncer seulement dix individus qui furent déjà arrêtés et envoyés à Larissa, sous escorte, avec le brigand Musulman susnommé, pour la continuation des poursuites judiciaires.

Je laisse au jugement du lecteur de s'imaginer qu'elles cruautés n'ont pas été commises par ce second corps de Guéques à Servia, n'ayant trouvé rien autre à saccager.

De Servia ces deux corps de Guéques, avec une distance de deux jours l'un de l'autre, évitant la route directe qui mène à Elassona, ont remonté et sont allés à Vlahoivadhi, petite ville de 500 maisons, et plutôt favorisée par la fortune comparativement aux villages de Servia, Velvados, et Catafighio.

Ils sont entrés à Livadhi sur les recommandations des Musulmans de Servia, qui ont déclaré aux Guéques que Livadhi est une ville abondant en tout, de sorte que les Guéques à peine entrés en ville ont demandé à loger chez les plus notables, les désignant par leurs noms.

Il est superflu de décrire en détail les gestes des Guéques à Livadhi, en peu de mots je dirai qu'ils ont forcé toutes les portes des maisons et les armes à la main ils ont pillé et saccagé tout ce qui était facile à transporter, après quoi ils ont chargé leur butin sur des chevaux qu'ils ont expédié à leurs villages.

Il faut ajouter que ces sauvages qui sont envoyés pour garantir la tranquillité des citoyens, étaient munis de clefs de toutes dimensions pour pouvoir ouvrir toute caisse, et avec échelles certes non pas pour donner l'assaut à une forteresse ennemie mais uniquement pour violer et couvrir de douleur et de misère les habitations Chrétiennes des fidèles et honnêtes sujets Ottomans.

En outre de ce qui précède, ils se sont fait donner de l'argent sous menaces de mort, ainsi qu'ils avaient pratiqué à Servia, à Velvados, et à Catafighio.

Dans le but de rançonner continuellement la population, ils ont réquisitionné des chevaux pour le transport des objets pillés, mais comme il n'y en avait pas des bêtes au village, alors ils ont chargé dix villageois, qui n'ont pû être libérés qu'après en avoir payé 40 livres Turques.

Le Juz-Bachi de Livadhi et ses 100 soldats Mustaphiz non seulement n'a pas donné aucune assistance et protection aux malheureux Livadiotes, mais, au contraire, s'étant associé avec les Guéques, il a aussi pillé plusieurs maisons appartenants à des personnes qui pour crainte s'étaient réfugiées sur les montagnes, et son butin a été transporté à son village à Sari-Yol.

De Livadhi les Guéques sont venus à Elassona, non plus en deux corps unis par détachements, et ensuite ils se sont dispersés dans les villages entre Livadhi et Elassona, où ils ont volé tout ce qui était facile à transporter, et ont inspiré une telle panique que toute la population est partie pour les montagnes. Dans plusieurs petits villages ils ont reçu des sommes de 2,000 à 3,000 piastres comme condition de ne pas piller.

Arrivés à Elassona ils ont refusé d'y rester parceque les habitants sont Musulmans. Une partie est allé demeurer au Couvent de l'Olimpevrissa, où ils ont maltraité tous les moines et ont volé le monastère, et une autre partie à Zaritza, petite ville Chrétienne, demi-heure loin d'Elassona, et où ils ont commis les mêmes histoires du pillage.

Ils voulurent aussi saccager l'Archevêché, mais ils ont reçu une forte somme en argent pour s'abstenir.

Ils chargeaient les habitants comme on charge les bêtes, et à un pauvre villageois, à titre de diversion, il lui ont mêt le mors, et l'ont fait promener dans les rues. Un autre habitant est devenu fou de la peur; enfin, croyant découvrir de l'argent, ils ont violé le tombeau d'un enfant mort quelques jours auparavant.

Ces choses ont été commises par les deux corps de Guéques, qui n'avaient pas de Commandant-en-chef, tandis que le 3me corps comparativement aux deux autres, n'a pas commis les mêmes méfaits.

En finissant, je déclare que tous les Chrétiens ici se trouvent dans la plus grande désolation, non seulement à cause de la conduite infâme des Guéques, mais parceque ils ont compris que les autorités Ottomanes et les habitants Musulmans ont encouragé tous ces méfaits.

Nous faisons une exception en faveur de trois familles Musulmanes sus-nommées, et lesquelles sont qualifiées d'infidèles par leurs propres coreligionnaires.

Elassona, le $\frac{10}{22}$ *Septembre*, 1877.

Inclosure 4 in No. 258.

M. Bizzo to Acting Consul Barker.

Salonique, le 5 Octobre, 1877.

M. le Consul,

LE Gouvernement Ottoman a ordonné la formation d'un corps de 15,000 soldats irréguliers composé d'Albanais, Guéques de Debrah, et d'autres des Provinces de Giorgia et Colonia, pour être envoyés en Thessalie.

Le soldo de chaque soldat a été fixé à 100 piastres par mois (en caimés) et une ocque de pain par jour. Le salaire des officiers varie suivant les grades.

Salih Bey à Debrah, ci-devant Caïmacam de Ochrida, et qui avait été destitué à la suite de plusieurs plaintes portées contre lui, après avoir enrôlé 2,500 Guéques, est parti avec eux par Ochrida et Monastir, et dans son chemin il a rançonné presque tous les villages Chrétiens, et surtout les petites villes. Lorsqu'ils s'approchaient des villages ils demandaient aux habitants une somme d'argent comme condition de ne pas rester et loger au village, mais partout où ils restaient, ils ne payaient rien, quoiqu'ils se faisaient délivrer des quittances d'avoir régulièrement payé toutes leurs réquisitions et de s'être honorablement comportés.

A peine la quittance était délivré qu'ils s'empressaient de demander encore de l'argent, faisant toutes sortes de menaces aux habitants, qui pour s'éviter de plus grands malheurs, étaient toujours contraints de venir à un arrangement. Le Gouverneur de Monastir, malgré qu'il connaissait la conduite des Guéques par les plaintes journalières qu'il recevait, non-obstant il s'est empressé d'aller à leur rencontre, avec les notables de la ville et la musique militaire en tête.

De Monastir, au lieu de se diriger directement sur Larissa, ils se sont divisés et sont partis en diverses destinations passant par tous les villages Chrétiens de la Province de Castonci, qui furent complètement saccagés. A Cozani et à Servia ils ont dévalisé toutes les maisons Chrétiennes et ils ont brutalement insulté l'Archevêque de Cozanin. Une bande de 300 s'est dirigée à Kutafeeglia, village de 500 maisons.

Les habitants sont des couteurs de bois de construction et des ouvriers maîtres de hâche travaillant pour compte de l'arsenal du Gouvernement. Par suite de leur travail ils rentrent au village deux fois par an, c'est-à-dire, à Paques et pendant les fêtes de Noël. Ces 300 Guéques susdits ont saccagé les maisons ; ils ont forcés les portes et ont fait sauter les serrures des caisses, et après avoir ramassé tous les chevaux des villageois, et ceux qu'ils avaient avec eux, ils ont chargé les bêtes de leur gros butin, et ont expédié le tout à leur village. Un pauvre villageois qui voulait sauver son cheval, a été tué d'un coup de pistolet.

Une autre bande de 1,300 s'est rendue à Livadhi, village de 600 maisons, le 13 Septembre. Les habitants avaient préparé les logements nécessaires, et les notables étaient sortis à leur rencontre. A leur arrivée les Guéques ont refusé les logements préparés d'avance, et se sont installés dans les diverses maisons du village.

A minuit la troupe a commencé à faire des coups de feu dans le but de jeter la panique parmi les habitants, et immédiatement après ils ont commencé à saccager la ville et à rançonner les habitants.

Dans ce village il y avait 80 soldats Mustaphiz et un officier.

Les villageois se sont adressés à cette force militaire pour être protégés et trouver un asile inviolable chez eux, mais leurs prières ne furent pas écoutées, et ils ont été chassés brutalement. La plus grande partie des habitants est sortie dans la campagne, mais les Guéques s'étant aperçus ils les ont poursuivis et ont dépouillé les femmes de leurs habillements ; après quoi, ils ont chargé leur butin sur les chevaux du village, et ont expédié le tout chez eux sous escorte.

Dix chevaux chargés de marchandises provenant de Larissa allant à Livadhi ont aussi été dirigés par les Guéques à leurs foyers.

Les habitants de Livadhi ont immédiatement donné avis au Caïmacam d'Elassona, mais la réponse fut que les soldats de Sa Majesté le Sultan ne sont pas capables de rapine. A Livadhi et à Kalafee-ghee les choses auraient pris une plus mauvaise tournure si quelques Begs influents de Servia n'avaient pas contribué à satisfaire les Guéques, qui se sont décidés à partir le 15 Septembre.

Quelques jours après une autre bande de 700 a demandé une forte somme d'argent

comme condition de ne pas séjourner dans ce même village. Les habitants, craignant les brutalités de ces visiteurs, ont payé la somme réclamée, et de cette manière ils se sont livrés de leur visite. Les pertes subies par deux villages Kalafee-ghee et Livadhi s'élèvent à plusieurs milliers de livres Turques et les mêmes cruautés ont été commises dans tous les villages Chrétiens ; tandis que dans les villages Musulmans rien n'a été touché.

Une autre bande de Guéques a saccagé les petites villes de Ampelakia Jirizana, Rhapsame Pantebernon, et Septocasia, et le 29 Septembre est entrée dans le village de Litochoro, qui est près de la ville de Catterina ; le Mudir et les notables de la ville de Catterina se trouvaient depuis deux jours à Litochoro, incités par les habitants dans le but de les préserver du pillage, mais la présence de l'autorité n'a contribué à rien, parceque les Guéques à peine arrivés ont immédiatement cerné la ville et saccagé toutes les maisons. Tout près de Litochoro il y a le Monastère de St. Dyonyse, qui a été aussi pillé et saccagé par un détachement des dits Albanais Guéques.

Rien n'a été épargné, pas même les objets servant au culte, et qui se trouvaient dans l'église.

Le prêtre a été forcé de fuir et de se rendre à Catterina.

Le 30 Septembre les Guéques ont fait annoncer qu'ils se rendaient aussi à Catterina, et à la suite de cette nouvelle il y a avait une grande panique parmi les habitants de la ville et des villages environnants de l'arrondissement de Verôa, car de moment à l'autre ils attendent leur destruction.

La condition misérable de toute cette population est impossible à décrire. L'hiver approche, et les habitants sont dépourvus de tout, même de leurs vêtements.

Tous ces désordres ont été commis sous les yeux des autorités Ottomanes et des officiers et soldats de l'armée régulière.

Plusieurs plaintes ont été déjà portées, mais sans aucun résultat. Sa Grandeur l'Archevêque Métropolitain de Salonique a référé, par écrit et officiellement, tous ces faits à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, Nousret Pacha ; mais, je le répète, aucune mesure répressive n'a été pris par les autorités, malgré qu'il était assez facile pour le Gouvernement d'ordonner la restitution des choses et des objets volés.

Le 1er et le 2e de ce mois j'ai eu une conversation avec son Excellence Nousret Pacha, par rapport aux 1,000 révolvers qui furent vendus par le Gouvernement Turc aux Musulmans de la ville, au prix de 70 piastres en medidé l'un, y compris 80 cartouches. Je lui ai demandé si la vente des révolvers se fait exclusivement aux Musulmans, et son Excellence m'a répondu affirmativement, et que c'est d'après l'ordre qu'il dit avoir reçu ; et il a ajouté encore que si les non-Musulmans désirent en acheter ils doivent d'abord se faire enrôler comme soldats.

Sur ma demande il m'a informé qu'il attend encore 2,000 révolvers, et que la vente ne se fait pas aux Chrétiens parce qu'ils sont tous Russophiles et Grecophiles. J'ai demandé aussi s'il est vrai que des Circassiens de Catterina furent enrôlés, en lui faisant observer que lorsque Eschref Pacha était ici Vali de Salonique, il avait aussi fait enrôler 70 Circassiens, mais que sur les représentations de Mr. Blunt et sur les demandes de l'Ambassade, la Sublime Porte avait ordonné de les désarmer, parce qu'ils commettaient toutes sortes de crimes et actes de brigandage. Son Excellence m'a répondu qu'il sait bien ce qu'il fait et qu'il a donné ordre d'enrôler 300 Circassiens dans le but de leur confier la garde des villages du sus dit arrondissement.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) JEAN BIZZO.

No. 259.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 27.)

(No. 1205.)

Therapia, October 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from the Vice-Consul at Prevesa reporting on the favourable impression produced by the arrival of Ali Pasha as Commander of the troops, and also narrating the attempt made on the life of an inhabitant of the village of Camarina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, October 6, 1877.

Sir,

IT is with great satisfaction that I have the honour to report to your Excellency the favourable impression produced here by the arrival of Ali Pasha, Commander of the troops in the Sandjak of Prevesa, and whose kind and easy manners have served to dispel to a great extent the fear which prevailed among the Christians ever since the proclamation of martial law.

It is much to be regretted, however, that Ali Pasha's visit will be of short duration, as he intends to return to Arta to-morrow. He is also expected to act with leniency as regards Churissis and Tolia, who are still at Arta, and hopes are even entertained that they will eventually be released.

A Christian of the name of Alexandros, who resides in the neighbouring village of Camarina, was fired at and wounded the other day. The would-be assassin has not been discovered; and as the victim belongs to one of the principal families of Sully, and has moreover great influence at Camarina, the attempt made on his life has made a deep impression.

The Greek boat with the rifles on board, as reported in my despatch of the 29th ultimo, is still detained at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 260.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 27.)

(No. 1211.)

Therapia, October 16, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1187 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Vice-Consuls Calvert and Dupuis, inclosing lists of the Bulgarians executed under martial law in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 260.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopoli, September 20, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 16th instant and of its inclosure, and to refer you, for the information desired by Her Majesty's Ambassador, to my despatch of the 15th instant.

I inclose herewith a list of the names of the Bulgarians who have been executed in this town up to the present date, as communicated to me by the late Mutessarif. I will endeavour to obtain and forward to you at an early date a similar list relating to the executions that have taken place in the villages of this sandjak.

In my report of the 15th instant the number of executions in Philippopolis was stated at 125. This included the 8 individuals executed on the ultimo, as reported in my despatch of the 29th July.

I mentioned in my last report that I had heard that violent means were used to extort confessions from the prisoners. I grieve to say that I now hardly can doubt the truth of this statement. The late Mutessarif has solemnly asserted to me that the cries of the prisoners reached his private apartments in the konak, and the dragoman of this Vice-Consulate and one of my servants positively assure me that they have twice, during the past two or three days, heard similar cries, while passing by night in front of the building where the Court holds its sittings: the blows inflicted on the prisoners could also be heard distinctly, they add, in the court-yard of the konak and the street outside. As no witnesses, so far as I am aware, are called to give evidence at the trials, it is difficult to imagine how, otherwise than by violence, the avowals which, according to Ibrahim and Rifaat Pashas, the prisoners are so ready to make, are elicited.

As regards the statement that the number of executions has been excessive, I do not share that opinion; but I am decidedly convinced that the distribution of punishments has been most unfair. If the perpetrators of massacres of unarmed Turkish men, women, and children in this district were alone to meet with their deserts, the number of executions might, without injustice, have been much greater. Unfortunately, the majority of the Bulgarians executed have been from the town of Carlowa, where no massacre of Mussulmans took place, and where the Bulgars confined themselves to welcoming the Russians and robbing their Mussulman neighbours.

Ibrahim Pasha has told me that several of the Carlowa Bulgarians sentenced by him were guilty of no greater offence than that of shouting "Vive l'Empereur Alexandre."

There has been a pause in the series of executions since the 13th instant, and it is probable that no fresh ones will take place until Ibrahim Pasha's return from Constantinople.

His Excellency is evidently a man unaccustomed, as well as unfit, to wield the extraordinary powers with which he is at present invested, and he exhibits a degree of elation which would be ludicrous under other than the present circumstances.

All my colleagues have, I believe, formed an opinion of Ibrahim Pasha similar to that which I have expressed.

It is earnestly to be hoped that His Majesty the Sultan may be soon enlightened as to the character of an officer in whom he reposes such misplaced confidence, and may be pleased to replace him by a worthier man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No 260.

List of Bulgarians executed at Philippopoli in August and September, 1877.

August 22.

1. Toïé Seatdji	..	.. Carlowa.	4. Nénè Pantchoff	..	.. Carlowa.
2. Angel Dimitroff	..	.. "	6. Christo Zweicoff	..	.. "
3. Petraki Paraschidjeden	..	.. "			

August 23.

6. Dinko Zweicoff	..	.. *Kotchmarlar.	9. Nichola Christoff	..	.. †Tchirpely.
7. Christo Anloff	..	.. *Kutchak-Oba.	10. Ghioerghi Tecoff	..	.. "
8. Costadin Radoff	..	.. †Stroyowo.	11. Rangel Elieff	..	.. "

August 24.

12. Nichola Papacoff	..	.. Carlowa.	15. Dimitri Pouloglou	..	.. Carlowa.
13. Vassil Iovanoff	..	.. "	16. Elia Rucheff	..	.. "
14. J. Hadji Angeloff	..	.. "			

August 28.

17. J. Hadji Dimitroff	..	.. Carlowa.	32. Iowantcho Lazaroff	..	.. Carlowa.
18. Vassil Patoff	..	.. "	33. Dobré Petroff	..	.. "
19. Yanko Rucheff	..	.. "	34. Christo Draganoff	..	.. "
20. Silo Netcheff	..	.. "	35. Alexander Vassiloff	..	.. "
21. Hadji Nicola Ghitcheff	..	.. "	36. Christo Shosheff	..	.. "
22. Stephan Vaneheff	..	.. "	37. Nicola Sheeheff	..	.. "
23. Lupcho Nicola Elieff	..	.. "	38. Silo Koptchieff	..	.. "
24. Iowantcho Christoff	..	.. "	39. Hadji Valeoff	..	.. "
25. Zacharia Iovanoff	..	.. "	40. Vassil Christoff	..	.. "
26. Petro Stoycoff	..	.. "	41. Nicola Saloff	..	.. "
27. Shisho Christo Elieff	..	.. "	42. Ghergbi Hadji Itoff	..	.. "
28. Hadji Costa Miloff	..	.. "	43. Ghergbi Stoycoff	..	.. "
29. Iowan Dobroff Zeitendji	..	.. "	44. Ghergbi Dimoff	..	.. †Araply.
30. Mushtar Iowan Kolioff	..	.. "	45. Nicola Dimoff	..	.. "
31. Iowantcho Stoycoff	..	.. "	46. Koussman Dimoff	..	.. "

August 29.

47. Vassil Pope Christoff	..	.. Carlowa.	52. Nouu Stoyanoff	..	.. Carlowa.
48. Demeter Iovanoff	..	.. "	53. Stoyan Koluoff	..	.. "
49. Sazar Iovanoff	..	.. "	54. Christo Petcoff	..	.. "
50. Stephan Iovanoff	..	.. "	55. Gantcho Ogoanoff	..	.. "
51. Ghergbi Mishoff	..	.. "	56. Petro Pentcho Christoff	..	.. ‡Saliken.

* In the Nahié of Kurudju Dagh. † In the Nahié of Coyssa-Tepé.
‡ In the Nahié of Carlowa.

September 4.

57.	Matéko Koluoff ..	.. Carlowa.	65.	Nicola Sofoff ..	.. Carlowa.
58.	Ghioshu Gheorgheoff ..	.. "	66.	Nicola Mintchoff ..	.. "
59.	Iovan Christoff ..	.. "	67.	Stavé Rashoff ..	.. "
60.	Dimitri Nanoff ..	.. "	68.	Tcherus Iovantchoff ..	.. "
61.	Stephan Iovanoff ..	.. "	69.	Orphen Rasloff ..	.. "
62.	Pope Petko (priest) ..	.. *Zindjirly.	70.	Gheorghi Papa Sazaroff ..	.. "
63.	Iovan Dinoff ..	.. *Arnply.	71.	Nicola Iovanoff ..	.. "
64.	Mantcho Dimitroff ..	.. *Sopot.	72.	Christo Fourounadjoglou ..	.. "

September 5.

73.	Nicola Palintchi ..	.. ..	77.	Dimitri Stoyanoff ..	.. Carlowa.
74.	Milian Simonoglou (schoolmaster)	..	78.	Iovan Koloff ..	.. "
75.	Kiro Iovanoff Fountchoudji ..	Carlowa.	79.	Tanko Iovanoff ..	.. "
76.	Asurdji Iovanoff ..	.. "	80.	Nenu Prnikoff ..	.. *Salikeui.

September 7.

81.	Dascal Marko (schoolmaster) ..	Carlowa.	89.	Nicola Dimitroff ..	.. Carlowa.
82.	Kosta Markoff ..	.. "	90.	Todor Vassiloff ..	.. "
83.	Dimitri H. Michoff (schoolmaster)	"	91.	Popcho Petkoff ..	.. "
84.	Gheorghi Iovanoff ..	.. *Kutchuk-Oba.	92.	Pavlé Mikoff ..	.. "
85.	Iovan Kiroff ..	.. Carlowa.	93.	Lilio Ghetoff ..	.. "
86.	Christo Koluoff ..	.. "	94.	Christo Mikoff ..	.. "
87.	Petko Mantchoff ..	.. "	95.	Kosanna Markoff ..	.. "
88.	Iovan Saloff ..	.. "	96.	Athanase Stainbrioff† ..	.. Philippopoli.

September 9.

97.	Pope Christo Vassiloff (priest)..	Carlowa.	100.	Todor Pavlé Dimitroff ..	Carlowa.
98.	Iovan Pavloff ..	.. "	101.	Pope Todor Kostoff (priest) ..	*Arnply.
99.	Stoyan Nedelcheff ..	.. "			

September 11.

102.	Moussi'oglou Khito ..	.. *Kiosseli-Zir.	108.	Spass Gheroff ..	.. *Kiosseli-Zir.
103.	Stoyan Pishoglou ..	.. "	109.	Simeon Iovanoff ..	.. Eski-Zaghra.
104.	Todor Petkoff ..	.. "	110.	Gheorghi Dochoff ..	.. Carlowa.
105.	Pentcho Jekoff ..	.. "	111.	Athanase Nedeltcheff ..	.. "
106.	Kolno Yolcoff ..	.. "	112.	Gheorghi Toghenoff ..	.. "
107.	Angel Raicheff ..	.. "	113.	Teno Dinoff ..	.. "

September 13.

114.	Kolio Petkoff ..	.. ‡Tchatal-Tepé.	116.	Petro Mochoff ..	.. ‡Tchatal-Tepé.
115.	Slaf Koluoff ..	.. "			

Inclosure 3 in No. 260.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, October 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency, herewith inclosed, a list of twenty-seven Bulgarians tried by the Adrianople Court-martial for treason, and conveyed for execution to the district towns in this province since the 5th instant.

On the 11th instant 150 Bulgarian insurgents, and 4 Russian prisoners of war, were brought from Philippopoli, and conveyed the next day to Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 260.

List of Bulgarians executed in the Adrianople District Towns since the 5th October, 1877.

1. POPE MICHAEL, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 80.
2. Stoyan Mito, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, workman; leaves widow and three children.
3. Stoyan Dinoff, of Yeni-Zaghra; leaves widow and four children.
4. Haggi Nicola Slavé, of Slimnia, age 60, tailor; leaves widow and four children.
5. Ivantchi Nicola, of Slimnia, tailor, age 25.

* In the Nahié of Carlowa. † Was at Carlowa during Russian occupation.

‡ In the district of Tchirpan.

6. Milul Nicola, of Slimnia, age 30; leaves widow and two children.
7. Stoyan Patte, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 30, labourer.
8. Deno Patio, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and one child.
9. Dimitti Dinoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and two children.
10. Elia Kristaki, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and three children.
11. Attanas Papamihailo, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 30, shopkeeper; leaves three children.
12. Giurgi Papamihailo, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 30, shopkeeper; leaves 1 child.
13. Stozontchoff Kaotchoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 25, labourer.
14. Heristo Kuntchow, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, shopkeeper; leaves widow and three children.
15. Zlass Stoyanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and two children.
16. Miko Stoyanoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 28, labourer; leaves widow and one child.
17. Mitcho Slavoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and five children.
18. Kurti Slavo, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 45, labourer; leaves widow and six children.
19. Mintchi Sabungi, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, shopkeeper; leaves widow and four children.
20. Jovan Petro, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and two children.
21. Paskal Ervenegi, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 30, shoemaker; leaves widow and one child.
22. Jovan Mannoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and five children.
23. Dino Ganoff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and two children.
24. Russo Petio, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 25, labourer.
25. Kolo Radozeff, of Yeni-Zaghra, age 28, labourer.

Monday October 8.—Two men, names not given, sent for execution to Slimnia.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS, *Vice-Consul.*

Adrianople, October 14, 1877.

No. 261.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 27.)

(No. 1212.) *Therapia, October* 16, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1155 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Colonel Lennox, acknowledging receipt of my instructions relative to the investigation of acts of cruelty committed on the Mussulman population in districts occupied by the Russian forces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Rustchuk, October 8, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 1st instant relative to acts of cruelty, &c., committed on the Mussulman population in districts occupied by the Russian forces.

I have communicated the substance of the despatch to Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., Captain Fraser, R.E., and to Captain Molloy, Bengal Staff Corps, who are at present with me, and I will not fail to do so to any other British officers who visit the scene of the present conflict.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E., Military Attaché.*

No. 262.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 1213.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1146 of the 29th ultimo, and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert relative to the case of the Gueshoglous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopoli, September* 30, 1877.

IBRAHIM PASHA, the military commandant, called upon me this morning, and informed me that the Gueshoglous would be sent to Constantinople, in two or three days, under the escort of an officer of police. He stated that he would have no objection to my telegraphing the fact to your Excellency; which I accordingly did.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 263.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 1214.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1075 of the 13th ultimo, and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Ineboli to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Constantinople on the subject of the Abazian immigration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 263.

Vice-Consul Velasti to Consul-General Fawcett.

M. le Consul-Général, *Ineboli, le 6 Octobre*, 1877.

J'AI l'honneur de vous soumettre ci-après quelques informations relatives à l'arrivée des Abaziens dans notre ville.

Les Abaziens débarqués jusqu'à ce jour à Ineboli sont au nombre de 1,050, dont 850 arrivés le 7 Septembre par le paquebôt Anglais "Henriette Agnes," nolisé par le Gouvernement Ottoman, et 200 arrivés le 9 Septembre par le paquebôt de la Compagnie Ottomane la Mahsoussé.

Le relevé pris à l'office sanitaire était en bon état, mais après quelques jours de séjours à Ineboli une épidémie de typhus et dysenterie s'est déclaré chez eux, de manière que le nombre a été réduit à leur départ, effectué à fur et mesure des arrivages de charriots, jusqu'au 2 Octobre courant à 949. D'après les renseignements obtenus par l'autorité locale, ces Abaziens sont destinés pour Angora, et il va en arriver encore quinzaine de mille pour la même destination.

Notre petite ville est menacée, par suite de ces nombreux passages qui vont avoir lieu, des plus sérieuses épidémies, et nous le regrettons d'autant plus vivement que la misère qui règne chez eux, et l'inqualifiable saleté qui les caractérise, ne sont pas de nature à en diminuer l'extension.

Aucune communication de langage n'est possible entre les habitants de la ville et ces derniers, qui ne s'expriment qu'en Abazien, langue particulière à eux. Tout ce que j'ai pu prélever par leur chef que je fis appeler, et qui balbutie quelques phrases Turques, c'est qu'il n'y a point de Chrétiens parmi eux.

Le mouvement des troupes effectué sur cette échelle du 1 au 30 Septembre a été le suivant:—

3,000 Mustaphis arrivés de Tchangry, Castamboul, Dossia, Bach Kiopru, et environs d'Ineboli partis pour Constantinople.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. VELASTI.

No. 264.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 1215.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 16, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Commander Musgrave, of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," informing me that that vessel will remain for the present at Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Commander Musgrave to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *"Cockatrice," at Sulina, September* 20, 1877.

IN reply to your Excellency's letter of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's gun-vessel under my command remains for the present in the river at Sulina.

The foreign population has to a great extent been removed, but the Consuls have returned from Kedrilles, and there is no foreign gun-boat except the "Cockatrice" at present in the river for the protection of the *personnel* and property of the Commission, nor has there been since the French stationnaire "Petrel" left in May last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHER G. W. MUSGRAVE.

No. 265.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 1216.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 16, 1877.

SERVER PASHA told me yesterday that he still hesitated about sending the telegram, referred to in my despatch No. 1176 of the 8th instant, to Prince Milan, and asked my advice as to forwarding it. I strongly urged upon his Excellency the importance of not doing so, unless he had reason to believe that Servia was really about to make war upon Turkey.

I said that from recent information which I had received, I understood that there was still great hesitation on the part of the Servian Government to enter upon hostilities against the Porte. Such being the case, it was exceedingly desirable that the Turkish Government should abstain from taking any measures which might precipitate matters, and enable the Prince to appeal to public opinion against Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 266.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 1218.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1877.

I AM glad to be able to inform your Lordship that there is a better feeling at the Porte towards Greece, and an impression that she will not engage in hostilities or promote insurrection against Turkey, at any rate for the present. The assurances of the Hellenic

Government, and more especially its conduct of late, are considered satisfactory, and Server Pasha has expressed to me his hopes that the questions between the two Governments which still remain unsettled will be arranged in a friendly spirit.

It would be very desirable that under these circumstances the Porte should remove from the Greek frontiers the Albanian Gueghas and other irregulars who have been recently sent there in anticipation of a war with Greece. I shall continue to urge this upon the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 267.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 1219.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 17, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1189 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch I have received from Captain Fife, respecting the treatment of the wounded and the capture of prisoners by both belligerents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 267.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Shipka, October 7, 1877.*

IN reply to your letter dated 25th September, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, after the battle of Eski-Zaghra on the 31st July, I saw one or two wounded Cossacks being removed from the field by the Turks, and the staff informed me that they were going to have their wounds dressed by the doctors.

At the Shipka Pass, each time that the Turks* have captured positions on which Russian wounded were lying, viz., on the 23rd, 25th, and 26th August, their own were so numerous as to completely overtax the arrangements of their hospitals, and those of the various aid societies, so that some remained as long as two or three days on the positions before being removed, and it is believed that many died for want of the necessary aid. The hospitals were full of Turkish wounded for long after, and this may, perhaps, account for no Russians being brought in.

I have nowhere seen unwounded Russian prisoners, except, occasionally, when no fighting is going on, a Russian outpost sentry or straggler is captured and brought to head-quarters to be questioned. I have known about four such cases since the army has been at Shipka. On seeing the first of these prisoners, I asked one of the staff where he was to be sent, and he informed me to Constantinople.

The Turks appear to believe firmly that when the garrison of Yeni-Zaghra was overpowered, a few hours after the departure of Raouf Pasha for Eski-Zaghra on the 29th July, two days before the battle of Eski-Zaghra, that the wounded were killed by the enemy. If this is true, it is difficult to prove, as it is believed that no Turk who could give evidence survived.

The correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" here, Major Leader, assured me that on the retreat of the assaulting column from the rock of St. Nicholas on September 17, he saw Russians on one part of the position bayonetting the wounded and killing them with clubbed rifles.

When the Russians entered Kyzanlik, they captured some sick Turkish soldiers in the hospital, and recently, on evacuating the town, they took away with them those who were convalescent, leaving behind those who were still ill; the latter stated that they had not been molested during the Russo-Bulgarian occupation.

Thus it appears that the Turks have made no unwounded prisoners in the battles which have taken place in Roumelia. I am a witness that they did not, at any rate, kill all the wounded, but sent some at least to be treated by the doctors, and I afterwards heard that there were a few in the hospitals at Kurabounar; as to whether they ever killed any I have no proof.

Whether the Russians and Bulgarians have made any prisoners in action I am unable

* Army of Suleiman Pasha.

to say; but I am reluctantly led to believe, from what is stated above, that at times they kill the wounded as they lie on the field.

If prisoners are made on either side not in battle, they appear to be humanely dealt with. Bulgarian insurgents are treated as such.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain, Military Attaché.*

No. 268.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 271.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 19, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 263 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Tricoupi stated to me to-day that he had telegraphed to the Greek Minister at Constantinople asking him whether Mr. Layard would object to the letter he addressed to M. Coundouriotti, on the 12th ultimo, respecting the transmission of criminals to Greece from Constantinople being published, and that he had also telegraphed to M. Gennadius to know whether he had communicated to your Lordship a despatch which he addressed to him, on the 12th/24th ultimo, commenting upon Mr. Layard's despatch to your Lordship which was published in a Blue Book last summer, and that having heard from M. Coundouriotti that Mr. Layard had no objection to the publication of his letter, and having also received an affirmative reply from M. Gennadius, he had given orders for the publication of the correspondence on this subject.

Papers bearing the following addresses and dates consequently appeared in the "Hora," the organ of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, this morning in Greek translation:—

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius, 12th/24th September, 1877.
M. Coundouriotti to Mr. Layard, 12th/24th August, 1877.
Mr. Layard to M. Coundouriotti, 12th September (11th September?), 1877.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 269.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 272.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 20, 1877.*

IN my despatch No. 269 of the 18th instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship the departure of their Majesties the King and Queen of the Hellenes for the camp at Thebes.

His Majesty is stated to have held a review on the 18th instant of the following troops, viz.:—

1 battalion of engineers.
2 regiments of infantry.
1 mountain battery.
1 field battery.
2 squadrons of cavalry.

The "Ephimeris" newspaper states that each regiment was 2,000 strong, but the "Ston" says that there were only 3,500 men reviewed.

I questioned M. Tricoupi on the subject yesterday, and he told me there must be between 5,000 and 6,000 men in the camp at Thebes. It is difficult, however, to form a very correct estimate of the exact number of troops at Thebes and elsewhere at present.

I understand that the Greek Government has purchased and received 50,000 "Gras" rifles from Austria, and that they have ordered 25,000 more.

1,000 saddles and 1,000 cavalry swords are reported to have arrived recently by an Austrian steamer, as well as 40 horses and mules for the cavalry and artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 270.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 27.)

Tiflis, October 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL statement of the battle of the 15th instant exaggerated. Number of Turkish prisoners about 5,000. Surrender of Pashas mysterious. Casualties of Muscovite army, as I reported in my despatch of the 23rd of this month, not confirmed. Insurrection not diminished.

No. 271.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28.)

Therapia, October 27, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I am informed that Jews referred to have left Bucharest for Constantinople and will be here next week. I will do what I can for them. If the Russians do not cross the Balkans again, I do not anticipate that they will incur any danger if they return to Kyzanlik.

No. 272.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 28.)

(No. 366. Confidential.)

Rome, October 16, 1877.

My Lord,

IN the course of an interview which I had with Signor Melegari, on the 15th instant, I took an opportunity of alluding to the language held by Signor Crispi to your Lordship in the conversation recorded in your Lordship's despatch No. 328, Confidential, of the 5th instant.

Signor Crispi, I said, while affirming that what the Italian people and Government most desired at this moment was peace and tranquillity, had nevertheless informed your Lordship that an attempt on the part of Austria to take advantage of the present troubles in Turkey, for the purpose of obtaining an augmentation of territory, would give rise to a strong feeling of jealousy throughout Italy, and probably lead her to appeal to the other Powers for compensation.

I asked Signor Melegari whether this was really the view of the Italian Government, and whether Signor Crispi had been authorized to speak in this sense.

Signor Melegari was visibly distressed at hearing that Signor Crispi had expressed himself in the above manner. His Excellency declared most solemnly that Signor Crispi had no authority whatever, as far, at least, as he was concerned, to speak in the name of the Italian Government; and the account of the language which I had just given him, as having been held to your Lordship, was not only not approved by him (Signor Melegari) but was entirely contrary to his opinions. His Excellency said that his whole object had been to cultivate the most intimate relations with Austria, and to restore that confidence between the two Governments which had, unfortunately, been shaken some months ago by reports of the ambitious designs which had been maliciously attributed to the Italian Government. He was now, he said, to see his whole labour thwarted by the indiscreet utterances of a person who was in no way responsible for, or charged to represent, the foreign policy of the Government. For his own part, he had not even seen Signor Crispi before he had started on his foreign tour; he knew nothing of where he was intending to go, and even less of the way he intended to express himself.

I told Signor Melegari that I had no difficulty in believing that, as far as he was concerned, Signor Crispi was entirely unauthorized in holding the language he did, and it was only right to say that I believed he had not represented himself as speaking officially in his interview with your Lordship; but I said Signor Crispi held an important position in this country, both as the President of the Chamber of Deputies, and as a prominent and influential member of the Ministerial party, and his Excellency could, therefore, not be surprised if language coming from such a person of the nature of that which Signor Crispi made use of to your Lordship, were calculated to arouse the anxiety of foreign Governments as to the pacific intentions of the Italian Government.

Italy, I continued, seemed now destined to be always before the world, and scarcely a month passed without some ominous report concerning her projects arising.

Signor Melegari replied that all these were fables concocted by her enemies. I said this might possibly be so, but that, nevertheless, when a man like Signor Crispi made a tour such as he was now engaged in, comported himself in the way he had done at Berlin, and spoke in the way he had done to your Lordship, no one could wonder if people lost confidence in the pacific assurances of the Italian Government, and began to think that, instead of being an element of peace in Europe, she was likely to be one of further discord and disturbance.

Signor Melegari did not reply much to this beyond repeating that he was not responsible for anything Signor Crispi had said or done, and this I am quite ready to admit.

What, however, Signor Crispi said to your Lordship about the feeling which would be created in this country by Austria annexing Bosnia tallies, as your Lordship may, perhaps, remember, with the language held to me on the same subject by the President of the Council in July last (see my despatch No. 293, Most Confidential, of July 30); but there is, nevertheless, this essential difference in what was said by Signor Depretis and Signor Crispi, viz., that whereas the former gave me to understand that the Government would endeavour to curb any popular excitement on the question, the latter did not hesitate to inform your Lordship that Italy would appeal to the other Powers for compensation.

I still adhere to the opinion I ventured to express in my despatch just alluded to, namely, that the apprehended agitation in the country, in the event of an Austrian annexation, is greatly exaggerated, "and that if it becomes inconvenient it will be because the Government have either not the will or the power to curb their turbulent followers." Amongst these followers or supporters is Signor Crispi. He belongs to the same clique of politicians, as Signor Cairoli, who, as also mentioned in the above-named despatch, is at the head of a self-constituted committee for keeping a watch over the foreign policy of the Government. I, therefore, am not without hope that, in speaking of a claim for compensation, Signor Crispi may, perhaps, have given expression to his own ideas rather than to those entertained by the Italian Cabinet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

P.S. *October 20.*—If Signor Crispi's language is correctly given in the Austrian press, of which extracts are given in the Italian papers, he would appear to be speaking more sensibly at Vienna, where he now is.

A. P.

No. 273.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 1225.)

Therapia, October 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WHEN with the Sultan yesterday I had an opportunity of bringing to His Majesty's notice the proceedings and language of Ibrahim Pasha, the Military Governor of Philippopoli, as reported to me by Vice-Consul Calvert, in his despatches inclosed in my No. 1183 of the 9th instant.

As soon as His Majesty heard me mention Ibrahim Pasha's name, he interrupted me, observing that he knew what I was about to tell him, as he had already been informed of the Pasha's conduct. He expressed the greatest indignation on the subject, adding that he had at once sent orders for Ibrahim Pasha's recall. His Majesty repeated to me most emphatically what he had said on other occasions, that he desired to treat the Bulgarians as leniently as the demands of justice allowed, and that when the war was over all his subjects, whatever might be their race or creed, should henceforth live together in peace and harmony under a just and liberal Government. Any one in authority, whatever his rank, who used language to the contrary, misrepresented his true feelings and sentiments, and would be severely dealt with.

I expressed to His Majesty my satisfaction at being able to convey these assurances to your Lordship, as I had unfortunately been under the painful necessity of transmitting to your Lordship an official report of Ibrahim Pasha's conduct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 274.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 458.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 28, 1877, 1·20 P.M.*

THE Sultan has sent to inform me that the news of the junction of the armies of Moukhtar and Ismail Pashas has been confirmed. His Majesty attaches much importance to this event. Every effort is being made to send further reinforcements to Moukhtar Pasha, who is now believed to be strong enough to prevent a Russian advance upon Erzeroum, and even to relieve Kars, which appears to be invested. Dr. Casson and another English doctor are in the place.

No. 275.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 459.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 28, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*

KEMBALL telegraphs yesterday that Ismail Pasha, with 25 battalions, 33 field-pieces, and 6 mountain guns, has retreated unmolested to Delibaba, leaving 8 battalions and 3 guns at Bayazid.

MacCalmont and Trotter have arrived at Erzeroum.

No. 276.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 28, 1877.*

THIS morning "Golos" published a private telegram dated Kuruk Dara, October 27, stating that negotiations commenced on October 25 for surrender of Kars, and that Turkish parlementaires had arrived at Russian camp for that purpose.

This is not officially confirmed.

No. 277.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wood.

(No. 21.) *Foreign Office, October 29, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 44, Confidential, of the 13th October, reporting the substance of the advice given by you to the Regent of Tunis at a recent interview on the subject of the Porte's requisition that he should furnish a contingent of troops; and, in reply, I have to state to you that you are undoubtedly right in advising the Tunisian Government to fulfil its obligations towards the Suzerain State, and thus preserve the link between Tunis and the Ottoman Empire.

Your advice given in that sense is approved by Her Majesty's Government, but it will be better for you to refrain from recommending the particular form of material assistance to be rendered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 278.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 88. Political.) *Aleih, October 14, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 83 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch and its inclosures which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting on the treatment of certain Bulgarian prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 278.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, October 14, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consular Agent Finzi relative to the Bulgarian prisoners confined at Acre; the list of their names I forward as I received it from Mr. Finzi.

A few days ago a petition, unsigned and undated, reached me from the prison of Beyrout; it was addressed to me by twelve Bulgarians, who alleged that they had been sent from Constantinople to Acre and thence to Beyrout, where they are kept without food or the means to purchase any, and requesting me to aid them.

I at once instructed Mr. Shoucair, the first Dragoman of Her Majesty's Consulate-General, to wait on the Mutessarif, and represent to his Excellency in an unofficial way the condition of these people, as far as it was known to me by their petition.

The Mutessarif informed Mr. Shoucair that the Bulgarian prisoners received the usual rations allowed to prisoners, but that their money had been taken from them to be returned when their term of imprisonment had expired; that five of their number had been sent to Cyprus, one to Damascus, and that the remaining six, of whom I inclose a list of names for your information, were on the point of being sent to Aleppo. These latter were called up before the Mutessarif, who, in the presence of Mr. Shoucair, questioned them as to the petition, and as to whether they received their rations. They stated that the petition was written by their comrades who had been sent to Cyprus, and that they had no knowledge of it; they also stated that they regularly received their daily rations.

Mr. Shoucair informs me that they were all very heavily ironed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 278.

Consular Agent Finzi to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Acre, le 30 Septembre, 1877.*

AYANT reçu des prisonniers politiques Bulgares une note contenant leurs noms et pays, je m'empresse de vous en remettre copie ci-jointe.

La première page contient les sept prisonniers conduits ici depuis l'an 1868; ensuite il y a la liste en Turc que je vous ai remise le 27 courant.

Les mêmes 46 prisonniers de cette année ignorent le temps de la leur condamnation, disant d'avoir été transportés ici sans rien leur dire, ayant été arrêtés quelqu'un d'eux à la montagne, autres en ville, et autres dans des villages.

Serait un trait d'humanité de faire traiter ces pauvres malheureux conforme [*sic*] sont traités les condamnés politiques Turcs, sans chaînes, et les garder relégués en cette ville, moyennant une caution personnelle, au bien qu'ils fussent traités comme les sept individus Persans qui depuis le 22 Janvier, 1872, à 4 heures de l'après-midi, assassinèrent à Acre les trois de leurs compatriotes, et que la justice condamna à quinze ans de travaux forcés, mais qui au contraire jouissent de la leur liberté.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. D'A. FINZI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 278.

LISTE des Prisonniers Politiques Bulgares dans les Prisons d'Acre depuis l'an 1868.

Nom.	Pays.	Temps de Condamnation.
Auguile Tobretenoff	Roustchouk	A vie.
Dantcho Stoyanoff	Tultcha	Idem.
Lazo Cyntchieff	Tirnova	A 15 ans.
Mirin Neikoff	Zichtoff	A vie.
Christo Mincoff	Kyzanlik	A 15 ans.
Poppe Dimitri	Lomme	Idem.
Tscho Simionoff	Rahova	A vie.

Inclosure 4 in No. 278.

LISTE des Prisonniers Bulgares Politiques à Acre l'an 1877.

No.	Nom.	Pays.	Condamnation.
1	Nicolas Tobretenoff	Roustchouk	Inconnue par les prisonniers.
2	Cyrelle Boteff	Calofère	" "
3	Stoyan Zaimoff	Tchirpane	" "
4	Ivan Stoyanoff	Roustchouk	" "
5	Dimitri Ivanoff	Sevlievo	" "
6	Rouseo Stoyanoff	Cotelle	" "
7	Theodore Minkoff	Cyzanlik	" "
8	Lava Peneff	Tirnova	" "
9	Yordan Nedeff	Idem	" "
10	Ivan Dantchoff	Ziehtoff	" "
11	Procopie P. Alexeff	Idem	" "
12	Dimitare Zodoroff	Gabrova	" "
13	Stoyan Eneff	Tchirpane	" "
14	Vassille Mintchoff	Thétévène	" "
15	Marine Peteoff	Idem	" "
16	Petare Marinoff	Lovtcha	" "
17	Theodore Ilieff	Idem	" "
18	Syntcho Petroff	Sophie	" "
19	Nicolas Petroff	Idem	" "
20	Pentcho Mincoff	Calofère	" "
21	Pentcho Stamenoff	Sophie	" "
22	Ivan Stoycoff	Soppotte	" "
23	Racheo Pantchoff	Coprivichtiza	" "
24	Quentcho Costoff	Philippople	" "
25	Loucas Atanasoff	Coprivichtiza	" "
26	Nentcho Yoeroff	Sliven	" "
27	Yordan Dimitroff	Idem	" "
28	Neno Gospodinoff	Bazardjik	" "
29	George Grozdansoff	Idem	" "
30	Cristo Dimitroff	Philippople	" "
31	Petre Nintchoff	Idem	" "
32	Philippe George	Idem	" "
33	Ivan Jancoff	Idem	" "
34	Viteos Stoytchoff	Idem	" "
35	Panco Georgeff	Sophie	" "
36	Philippe P. Botchcoff	Philippople	" "
37	Mitro Pachoff	Lamocoff	" "
38	Cristo Mitroff	Sophie	" "
39	Ivan Nicoloff	Idem	" "
40	Petro Lazaroff	Bazardjik	" "
41	Pantcho Petroff	Idem	" "
42	Pannyotti Nancoff	Tirnova	" "
43	Poppe Nedelis	Zlatiza	" "
44	Poppe Christo	Bazardjik	" "
45	Poppe Georgie	Idem	" "
46	Eranus Thodoroff	Tirnova	" "
47	Juline Gantchoff	Philippople	Mort.

Inclosure 5 in No. 278.

LIST of Bulgarians who arrived from Constantinople to Beyrout, on the 22nd September, 1877.

No.	Name.	Country.
1	Petro Nicolaeff	Roustchouk.
2	Michael Georgeff	Ditto.
3	Marian Zojoff	Ditto.
4	Atanas Petroff	Varna.
5	Christo Stanko	Yamboli.
6	Atanas Stani	Yamboli.

No. 279.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 30, 1877.

GRAND Duke Nicholas telegraphs, dated Bogot, October 29, Guards under Gourko bombarded yesterday Turkish fortified position at Telioche, on Sophia road. After two hours' fire, garrison of seven tabors of infantry, three guns under Ismail Khakt Pasha, capitulated; only 300 escaped. Pasha and above 100 officers are now at redoubt of Gorny Doubniak. They will be set at liberty.

No. 280.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 30, 1877.

OFFICIAL telegram from Caucasian army, dated Visinkew, Sunday, October 28, states that Tergoukasoff corps pursuing Ismail Pasha, was on 25th October at Kara-Kilissa, in sight of his rear-guard retreating on Zeidikan. General Heymann, detached with special corps, moving on Koprikoi.

No. 281.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 654.)

Foreign Office, October 30, 1877.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Anglo-Jewish Association, inclosing an extract from the "Jewish Chronicle," in which a detailed account is given of atrocities said to have perpetrated upon the Jewish community of Kyzanlik, and I have to request that you will furnish me with such information on the subject as you may be able to obtain.

I am, &c.

(Signed DERBY.

No. 282.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Octobre*, 1877.

UN télégramme de Suleyman Pacha nous informe qu'à Tchiros, le 4 Octobre une vingtaine de Cosaques assaillirent des familles Musulmanes au nombre de cinquante environ, qui étaient restées pour battre leur blé. Trois Musulmans, dont une femme, ont été tués en cette occasion, ainsi qu'un Bulgare et sa fille âgée de dix-huit ans; cinq Musulmans ont été blessés et une femme Musulmane octogénaire a disparue. D'après le même télégramme une barque montée par six pêcheurs, sujets Ottomans, ayant été entraînée par la violence du vent vers la rive Moldo-Valaque du Danube, a été assaillie à coup de fusils par l'ennemi embusqué sur cette rive. Un jeune homme de dix-sept a été tué, un autre de treize ans et son père ont été blessés.

No. 283.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 260. Political.)

Bucharest, October 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship this day by telegraph that it is the talk of the town that 7,000 volunteers, Hungarians and Poles, have crossed into Wallachia from Austria at a place called Closani, not far from Turno-Severin, and that it is not unlikely they will endeavour to reach Widdin.

A Council of Ministers has been held here, where it has been decided to send a Roumanian force against these volunteers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 284.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 263. Political.)
Bucharest, October 13, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to telegraph to-day to your Lordship that at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs it is stated that the arrival of volunteers from Hungary was a false alarm.

Some villagers in Little Wallachia hearing of movements of troops on the Hungarian side and close to the frontier, mistook them for incursionists.

The locality whence the report had its origin is a long way from the prefecture of the district; hence some time expired before the Government here was able to arrive at the fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 285.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 268. Political. Confidential.)
Bucharest, October 23, 1877.

My Lord,

UP to the present moment we are without any official information respecting the losses sustained by the Roumanian army before Plevna on the 20th instant.

I am, however, informed by M. Rosetti, the President of the Chamber, that the casualties amount to perhaps not less than 900, of which it would appear that there are 5 officers killed, 19 wounded, and 250 rank and file killed.

From the same source I learn that the Roumanians issued from their trench, which was within fifty paces of the Turkish works; they were received by a withering fire of musketry, and never got further than the ditch of the Turkish work.

It seems that the great loss on the part of the Roumanians arose from their not returning to the covered way when repulsed; they retired across the open, and were consequently exposed to a sustained fire from the parapet of the enemy.

It is reported that the attack was carried out by Prince Charles against the opinion of General Todleben and Prince Imeretinsky, the Chief of the staff of the Russo-Roumanian forces before Plevna, and, of course, as no Russian troops were concerned, Prince Charles could act as he liked, and the result has been a fearful and fruitless expenditure of life.

The Conservatives are trying to fasten the blame upon the Divisional Commander, Colonel Anghelesco, "a red," whilst the radicals designate the disaster as a *coup de tête* of the Prince.

The latter appears to me the most probable explanation, as a few days since the Princess told me that she had received a telegram from the Prince to the effect that "he should be ready to attack in two or three days time."

The outcry against the Prince and the Government on account of this fresh waste of Roumanian lives is very considerable, but the Chamber not being in session, the expression of public opinion can only find utterance in the newspapers, to which the Prince and his advisers are equally indifferent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 286.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October 31.)

Sublime Porte, le 11 Octobre, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

JE vous transmets, ci-joint, la traduction du rapport adressé à la Sublime Porte par le Caïmacam d'Eski-Zaghra sur l'occupation de cette ville par les troupes Russes sous le commandement du Général Gourko.

Ainsi que vous le relèverez de la lecture de cette pièce, pendant les onze jours qu'a duré l'occupation, le pillage et le massacre ont été en permanence à Eski-Zaghra, sous les yeux de l'autorité militaire Russe, qui n'a rien fait pour les reprimer ni pour les arrêter. Les pillards et les assassins étaient des Cosaques et des Bulgares, ces derniers qualifiés de militaires par le Général Gourko et même enrôlés par lui comme gendarmes. Les victimes étaient exclusivement des Musulmans et des Israélites. Plus de 1,300 habitants inoffensifs ont été ainsi tués en onze jours. A ces crimes ont fait cortége les tortures infligées aux femmes, aux vieillards, aux enfants, aux infirmes, et les violences d'une autre nature commises sur des femmes, même par des officiers Russes. Et ce qui achève de caractériser la conduite de notre ennemi dans cet odieux épisode de la guerre, ce sont les profanations de toute nature commises dans les mosquées et dans les sépultures Musulmanes.

Je ne saurais trop vous recommander, M. l'Ambassadeur, de faire connaître le contenu de ce document aux personnes à même d'éclairer l'opinion publique. Il importe que le monde civilisé apprécie de quelle manière les Russes se font les champions de la civilisation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SERVER.

Inclosure in No. 286.

Report by the Kaïmakam of Eski-Zaghra.

(Traduction.)
15 *Chaban*, 1294.

FIDÈLE à mes devoirs de fonctionnaire et obéissant à mes sentiments patriotiques, je me tenais ferme à mon poste à Eski-Zaghra, lorsque soudain, les troupes Russes, ces ennemis de l'humanité et de la civilisation, ont envahi la ville. Voici les actes auxquels j'ai eu la douleur d'assister et les forfaits que les Bulgares, armés et incités par les Moscovites, ont commis.

Aussitôt après l'occupation d'Eski-Zaghra par une division Russo-Bulgare, sous le commandement du Général Gourko, celui-ci me fit mander, ainsi que les fonctionnaires et les notables de la localité, dans l'endroit sis hors de la ville qu'il avait choisi pour son campement. "L'Empereur m'a envoyé ici," dit-il sur un ton dur et violent, "pour rétablir la sécurité et opérer des réformes. Dans deux heures j'exige les armes de la population sous peine de mort pour les récalcitrants." On demanda au général si les Bulgares devaient participer ou non à cette mesure. "Les Bulgares sont militaires," répondit-il; "ce que je désire, ce sont les armes des Musulmans." Il ajouta, toutefois, que si ces derniers se voyaient en butte à des procédés vexatoires, on n'aurait qu'à l'en avertir pour que les coupables fussent punis.

Rentrés en ville, nous eûmes à recueillir et à charger sur des chariots les armes dont les Musulmans étaient forcés de se dessaisir. Mais, à mesure que ces chariots quittaient Zaghra à destination du camp Russe, les Bulgares les attaquaient et faisaient main basse sur leur contenu; de telle sorte que les armes ne purent parvenir au général qui, vu l'expiration du délai de deux heures, menaça de bombarder la ville.

A l'intimation de cette menace, nous répondîmes que les armes avaient été pillées par les Bulgares. Sur quoi, Gourko proclama que des perquisitions domiciliaires allaient être opérées chez les Musulmans, et que les habitants des maisons dans lesquelles des armes seraient trouvées ou desquelles partiraient des coups de feu seraient sommairement passés par les armes. Ensuite il se rendit en personne à Eski-Zaghra, pénétra dans l'hôtel de l'autorité locale, et fit arrêter les soixante-dix zaptiés et les trente Mustahfis qui n'avaient pu s'enfuir. En apparence dans le but de veiller au maintien de l'ordre, mais en réalité pour opprimer une foule d'innocents, il institua une commission administrative exclusivement Bulgare, désigna un Colonel Russe au poste de Préfet de Police, et enrôla sous les ordres de cet officier environ 300 gendarmes Bulgares.

L'occupation d'Eski-Zaghra par les troupes Russes fut suivie de l'irruption de bandes Bulgares armées, composées d'habitants des villages voisins. Ces gens, au nombre de plus

de 15,000, joints aux Bulgares de Zaghra et à une foule de Cosaques et de soldats Russes, attaquèrent dans la soirée les boutiques des Musulmans et des Israélites qui n'étaient pas marquées de croix, brisèrent à coups de hâche les devantures et les portes, pillèrent tout ce qu'ils y trouvèrent de valeurs et d'argent. Le lendemain ils s'en prirent aux maisons tant Musulmanes qu'Israélites ; et après avoir torturé de la manière la plus cruelle, la plus sauvage, leurs habitants, sans épargner les femmes, les enfants, les vieillards et les invalides, ils firent main basse, non seulement sur les objets qui étaient à leur portée, mais encore sur les valeurs en argent et en effets que par précaution on avait enfouies sous terre, ainsi que sur des animaux tels que chevaux, bœufs, &c. En un mot, les agresseurs dépouillèrent de tout aussi bien les simples particuliers que les fonctionnaires.

Cette journée néfaste fut encore marquée par le massacre d'une foule d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants Musulmans réfugiés dans les villages environnants, de la part d'une bande de Cosaques et de Bulgares.

Trois jours après ces douloureux événements, qui ont jeté la consternation parmi les Musulmans, les Russes, n'ayant plus rien à piller, étaient en quête d'un prétexte pour exterminer ces derniers. Les sentinelles Bulgares posées dans les quartiers Musulmans, comme pour défendre les habitants, tirèrent exprès quelques coups de feu. Aussitôt une bande de Cosaques, prétendant avoir perdu un homme, assaillait trois maisons et tua à coups de lances tous ceux qui s'y trouvaient, hommes, femmes, enfants, et malades. Les cris de ces malheureux retentirent au loin.

Un certain nombre de Musulmans, par un mouvement de commisération, accoururent pour savoir ce qui se passait, et secourir, si c'était possible, leurs malheureux coreligionnaires ; onze d'entr'eux furent arrêtés comme habitant les mêmes maisons et conduits au camp du Général Gourko, ce bourreau des innocents. Le lendemain, ils furent pendus sans autre forme de procès, en présence des notables Musulmans qui avaient été invités spécialement pour cela. Ensuite, le Général, s'adressant à l'assistance, dit d'un ton menaçant : "Si ces désordres se continuent, vous subirez la même peine." En même temps, il fit arrêter le Mufti (Juge), le Lieutenant du Nakib-ul-Echref, le Professeur de l'Ecole de Ruchdié, et seize notables de la localité. Ces gens furent pris en ôtage comme pour prévenir tout désordre de la part des Musulmans.

Quelques jours avant l'entrée des Russes à Eski-Zaghra, six Musulmans notables s'étaient réfugiés à Andrinople. Mal en prit à leurs pauvres familles, car Gourko les fit sortir de leurs maisons et les mit sous la surveillance de la police dans un endroit non éloigné de son camp, croyant amener par là les fugitifs à rentrer à Eski-Zaghra.

Pendant que ces scènes de sauvagerie intolérable se passaient, les Cosaques et les Bulgares, dans le dessein d'insulter la religion Musulmane, n'épargnèrent ni les mosquées ni les mausolées situés tant dans l'intérieur qu'en dehors de la ville ; ils pillèrent les objets d'ornement et de valeur, déchirèrent les livres sacrés, en jetèrent les morceaux dans les rues et se livrèrent à des outrages inénarrables. En un mot, l'ennemi ne négligea rien pour imprimer à la lutte actuelle le caractère d'une guerre de religion. Dans sa fureur sacrilége, il alla jusqu'à souiller les mosquées en tous sens, surtout les parties saillantes, telles que : Mihrab et Menber. Des sentinelles furent posées dans les minarets, en apparence pour surveiller les maisons Musulmanes, mais en réalité pour gêner davantage leurs habitants : il n'est pas jusqu'à l'ézan (appel à la prière publique) qu'on n'eût soin de singer pour consommer l'insulte faite à l'Islamisme.

Ces méfaits étaient dus à l'instigation des Moscovites, avec lesquels étaient d'accord les Codja Bachis Bulgares, membres de la Commission Administrative. En attendant que les troupes Impériales vinssent mettre fin au supplice des Musulmans, nous avons cru pouvoir prévenir la consommation des actes dont il s'agit en nous adressant à la susdite Commission. "Ceux qui se voient opprimés aujourd'hui," fîmes-nous dire à ses membres, "sont vos compatriotes. Nous aurons à renouer plus tard nos relations. Il dépend de vous de mettre fin à ces méfaits." "Que voulez-vous," répondirent les Bulgares à cette communication : "les lois et les coutumes Russes en ordonnent ainsi. Qu'y pouvons-nous ? Nous nous efforçons d'écarter le mal. Pour le moment vous n'avez rien à craindre ; voyons ce qui arrivera plus tard." Cette réponse, donnée en guise de consolation, n'a servi qu'à réduire les Musulmans à un état désespéré.

Quant aux nouvelles de prétendues victoires, telles que la chûte de la forteresse de Widin qui aurait sauté, la prise de Roustchouk, le siége et la reddition imminente de Choumla, le manque de tout espoir de salut pour les Ottomans, quant à ces nouvelles que les Bulgares faisaient circuler journellement, disant les tenir du Général Russe, elles mirent le comble à la douleur et à la consternation des Musulmans, surtout des femmes et des enfants.

Entre temps, les Cosaques et les Bulgares, enrôlés dans la gendarmerie, visitaient les maisons Musulmanes sous prétexte de chercher des armes, faisaient sortir les hommes en

disant que leur présence était requise par le Général, et les livraient aux griffes de leurs complices Bulgares, qui les conduisaient dans l'endroit dit Tchoukour-Boklouk, sis non loin de la ville où ils les égorgeaient comme des moutons. Quant aux Musulmans qui refusaient de se rendre aux Bulgares, on leur mettait la corde au cou, on les trainait dans les rues, on les ramenait à l'endroit indiqué, couverts de sang et de boue et on les massacrait impitoyablement, de manière à assurer l'indulgence à la mémoire des Genghis et des Holagu.

Quelles journées néfastes que celles dont chaque heure, dont chaque minute était faite pour porter un coup mortel aux cœurs des patriotes !

Plus que personne je devais ressentir le contre-coup de cette situation ; car, à raison de mon caractère officiel les victimes Musulmanes, hommes et femmes, s'adressaient à moi tout éplorées, sans autre résultat que de me voir prendre part à leurs lamentations.

Dans la maison où l'on me donnait l'hospitalité, j'eus à recevoir un jour trois Capitaines Russes qui, après avoir passé quelque temps au Sélamlik, me déclarèrent qu'ils étaient venus visiter l'appartement des dames, les Cosaques leur ayant dit avoir constaté la beauté du jardin de cet appartement lors de la perquisition domiciliaire effectuée pour la recherche des armes. Je m'efforçai autant que je pus de détourner ces officiers de leur projet ; mais ils pénétrèrent de vive force dans la demeure des femmes, sans que nous puissions nous y opposer, faute de moyen de défense.

Le Général Gourko avait promis, il est vrai, de punir les auteurs de tous actes d'oppression de ce genre qui parviendraient à sa connaissance ; mais une expérience, plusieurs fois répétée, démontrait que les Musulmans, par quelque raison que ce fût, ne pouvaient entrer dans l'hôtel de l'autorité constituée par les Russes, en vertu de la consigne donnée aux sentinelles, ce qui ôtait d'avance toute chance de réussite à un recours au Général Gourko. Néanmoins, en vue de mettre au grand jour l'acte répréhensible des susdits officiers, mon domestique Ali, n'écoutant que son courage, se dirigea vers le camp Russe, et essaya d'y entrer, malgré l'opposition du fonctionnaire. Cette persistance désespérée d'Ali lui valut deux coups d'armes. L'émotion qu'il en ressentit le fit tomber en défaillance, ce qui donna lieu à un certain tumulte.

Sur l'ordre du Général, Ali fut, après avoir recouvré ses sens, introduit près de lui et lui exposa la conduite des officiers Russes envers les femmes Musulmanes. Un capitaine, un médecin et quelques Cosaques furent envoyés sur les lieux. Ils trouvèrent les officiers Russes dans le jardin du harem, le revolver au poing et poursuivant la femme et les bras du propriétaire de la maison ; un d'eux avait même introduit son cheval dans ce jardin pour servir de monture à une de ces femmes qu'il voulait enlever.

Les gens du général durent emmener les officiers hors de la maison, tout en ayant soin d'attribuer leur conduite à l'ivresse. On nous annonça ensuite, il est vrai, que les coupables avaient été cassés chacun d'un degré en guise de punition ; mais cela ne paraît guère probable, à en juger par l'attitude de ces hommes qui, une fois hors de notre maison, pénétrèrent dans une habitation voisine, dont le propriétaire se trouvait en ce moment à Andrinople, et firent subir les derniers outrages à sa femme restée seule.

Ces terribles scènes se succédaient sans discontinuité ; chaque jour on assistait à la torture et au massacre de 100 à 150 Musulmans ; il n'est pas jusqu'aux zaptiés et aux Mustahfiz plus haut mentionnés qui ne fussent garrottés, enchaînés et dirigés sur Kyzanlik. Le reste des Musulmans, ayant perdu tout espoir de salut, attendait d'un moment à l'autre que son sort fût fixé lorsque, l'onzième jour de l'occupation, cette journée aussi heureuse pour l'Islam que néfaste pour l'ennemi, le brave Maréchal Suleyman Pacha fit son apparition à la tête de sa glorieuse armée.

Cet événement jeta le désarroi dans les rangs des Russes, qui tout en se préparant pour la défensive, se mirent à attaquer à droite et à gauche comme des chiens enragés. Cependant nos héroïques soldats, qui portent si haut la gloire du nom Ottoman, fondirent sur eux aux cris d'Allah, Allah et les mirent en déroute. Dans sa fuite l'ennemi se livra à des actes de fureur ; une foule de Cosaques et les Bulgares de la ville essayèrent de forcer les portes des maisons où se trouvaient assemblés les Musulmans et firent pleuvoir des balles à travers les carreaux et les portes, croyant atteindre les personnes réunies.

Heureusement ils n'eurent pas le temps de pénétrer dans les maisons dont ils avaient pu briser les portes, car l'armée Impériale en qui était tout notre espoir de salut, ne tarda pas à arriver sur les lieux, et la cavalerie Ottomane ne se fut pas plutôt répandue dans la ville que tous se cachèrent en toute hâte. Ainsi les Musulmans qui se trouvaient en prison ou qui s'étaient dérobés furent-ils enfin délivrés grâce à l'assistance spirituelle du Prophète, et sous les auspices de notre magnanime Souverain.

Pendant la bataille, les insurgés Bulgares qui prévoyaient la victoire des armes Ottomanes se dirigèrent vers Kyzanlik, accompagnés de leurs familles. Ceux qui n'avaient pas

eu la même prévoyance et qui se fiaient à leurs armes se retranchèrent dans les églises et les habitations d'où ils se permirent de tirer sur les troupes Impériales, après leur entrée victorieuse à Eski-Zaghra. Un major et une douzaine d'officiers et de soldats furent tués ; quelques Musulmans qui s'étaient aventurés dans les rues y trouvèrent également la mort. Sur quoi, les troupes Impériales durent riposter ; elles tuèrent un certain nombre d'insurgés et arrêtèrent le reste qu'elles conduisirent au camp.

La bataille fut commencée aux environs de Mouradli, village situé à une heure et demie de distance d'Eski-Zaghra, et terminée aux alentours de la ville, où l'ennemi finit par se retrancher. Les boulets et les obus lancés de part et d'autre, joints aux matières inflammables entassées par les Bulgares, causèrent l'incendie dans la ville. Malgré les efforts déployés par les troupes Impériales et les habitants Musulmans, on ne put se rendre maître du feu, faute de moyens d'extinction, et une grande partie de la ville devint la proie des flammes.

Par ce qui précède l'on voit bien à quels maux inénarrables la population Musulmane d'Eski-Zaghra a été en butte. La crise très violente et très douloureuse qu'elle a traversée a rendu son séjour dans cette ville impossible. En conséquence et conformément à l'ordre du commandant de l'armée, plus de 13,000 personnes, Musulmanes, Israélites, et Bulgares, ainsi qu'une foule de familles Protestantes d'Eski-Zaghra, accompagnées de leurs missionnaires, ont été conduites sur des chariots préparés par mes soins jusqu'à la station de Caranbounar, d'où les Bulgares ont été dirigés sur Philippopoli et Haskeuy, les Musulmans, les Israélites, et les Protestants sur Djisri Moustapha Pacha, Andrinople, et Constantinople. En route il a été pourvu, sous l'égide de notre auguste Souverain, à la nourriture et aux autres besoins de ces émigrés, qui en son reconnaissants.

Voilà dans quelles circonstances a pris fin ce douloureux épisode.

La population Musulmane a subi, il est vrai, des pertes matérielles considérables, et compte à Eski-Zaghra seul plus de 1,300 morts, mais les cœurs des opprimés se sentent soulagés par la conviction de savoir battu en tout et partout l'ennemi de leur religion et de leur pays, à la grande joie des Ottomans.

No. 287.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, October* 31.)

Constantinople, le 30 *Octobre*, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

D'APRÈS les informations qui nous parviennent, le Représentant de la Russie à Athènes aurait fait à quelque membre du Ministère Hellénique des ouvertures tendant à engager la Grèce à sortir de sa neutralité ; et il lui aurait promis l'intervention de la plupart des Puissances Européennes pour la défense des villes maritimes de la Grèce dans le cas où celle-ci ferait la guerre à la Turquie.

Veuillez signaler cette nouvelle à la sérieuse attention de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 288.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received October* 31.)

Therapia, October 30, 1877, 4·5 P.M.

(No. 461.)
(Telegraphic.)

KEMBALL telegraphs yesterday that Turks concentrated at Kupri-keui under Ismail Pasha retired before Russian advance to Hassan Pasha, but were surprised there and lost many prisoners. Turkish force thirty battalions, with forty-five field and eighteen mountain-guns, has taken up position on Deve Boyun.

Russian main body supposed to be at Kupri-keui. A column advancing through Olti and Gurgia-Boghaz, which is still quite undefended. Moukhtar Pasha has gone to latter place.

No. 289.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 31, 1877, 3·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HOW does the case of the Messrs. Geshoff stand? I have received a further application on their behalf, and expressing anxiety as to their fate.

No. 290.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 31, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 455 of the 26th instant has been considered in communication with the Law Officers, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government cannot properly be a party to the proposed arrangement, which is opposed to the principle of the law of blockade.

If, therefore, the Porte act upon the principle suggested, the blockade is by law at an end, and neutral vessels will be justified in treating it as at an end.

I am informed by the Secretary of Lloyds' that there are no British vessels detained in the Russian ports of the Black Sea and Sea of Azoff.

No. 291.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

Foreign Office, October 31, 1877.

(No. 87.)
Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 266 of the 15th instant has been received, and I have to state that Her Majesty's Government learn with satisfaction that it is probable that the military preparations in Greece will cease, and that the questions still pending between Greece and Turkey will be settled unofficially.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 292.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, October 31, 1877.

(No. 658.)
Sir,

I HAVE considered, in communication with the Law Officers of the Crown, your telegram No. 455 of the 26th instant, in which you state that you have reason to believe that the Porte will permit foreign ships detained on account of the blockade of the Russian ports in the Black Sea and Sea of Azoff to leave, on condition that cargoes consisting of grain shall be sold at Constantinople, no duty being levied upon them; and I have now to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government cannot properly be a party to the proposed arrangement, which is opposed to the principle of the law of blockade. Blockade has been defined to be a uniform universal exclusion of all vessels not privileged by law. If some vessels are allowed to pass, others will have a right to infer that the blockade is raised. In blockade there are no conditions, the veto is absolute and must either be existing or non-existing. If, therefore, the Porte act upon the principle suggested in your Excellency's telegram, the blockade is by law at an end, and neutral vessels will be justified in treating it as at an end.

With reference to your request that you may be furnished with a list and particulars of the British ships detained in the Russian ports of the Black Sea and Sea of Azoff on account of the blockade, I have further to state to you that the Secretary of Lloyds informs me that to the best of his knowledge there are no British vessels remaining in any of the ports in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.